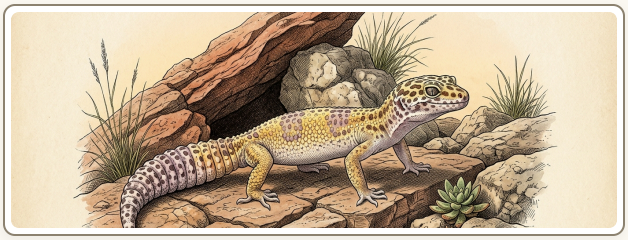
Leopard Gecko

Eublepharis macularius

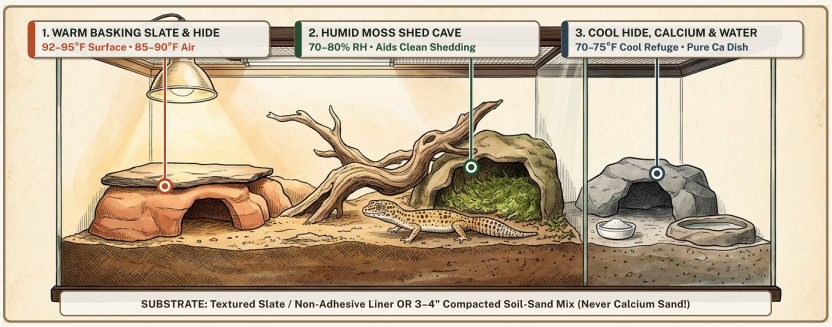
The Quick Version: Despite the name, Leopard Geckos don't live on loose sand dunes — they come from rocky clay foothills in Pakistan and Afghanistan! All day they snooze tucked inside snug, slightly humid rock crevices, then wander out at dusk onto warm stones to hunt bugs.



LIFESPAN	ADULT SIZE	ACTIVE HOURS	ADULT TANK	HOUSING
15–20+ Years	7–10 Inches	Dusk & Night	20L Min / 36×18"	Strictly 1 / Tank

1. Setting Up the Tank & Temps

3 HIDES ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE: WARM • HUMID MOSS • COOL



Warm Basking Floor — Check the rock/floor right under the warm hide — **92°–95°F**

Warm Side Air Temp — They need belly & air warmth to digest bugs! — **85°–90°F**

Humid Moss Cave — Keep damp moss inside 24/7 so toes shed clean — **70–80% RH**

Cool Side & Tank Air — Dry room air on the cool end with fresh water — **70°–75°F**

Nighttime Temp Drop — Lights all the way off at night (skip red/blue bulbs!) — **65°–72°F**

2. Two Ways That Work — Pick What Fits Your Home

SHORT & SWEET: BOTH OPTIONS WORK GREAT

Heating: Overhead Bulb vs. Heat Mat

Short-and-sweet: either method works great as long as it's plugged into a **digital thermostat**:

OPTION A: OVERHEAD HALOGEN BULB (OUR FAVORITE)

A 50W–75W halogen bulb or Deep Heat Projector warms a flat piece of slate and the air around it — super natural and great for glass or PVC tanks.

OPTION B: UNDER-TANK HEAT MAT

Warms the floor right under the warm hide. **Big rule:** it must be on a thermostat set to 90–92°F and used with a thin liner or tile so it can't overheat.

Flooring: Solid Liner vs. Loose Soil Mix

Most 'impaction' horror stories actually come from cold temps or calcium sand — not good flooring:

OPTION A: TEXTURED LINER, SLATE TILE, OR PAPER TOWEL

Super easy to keep clean, lets you spot poop right away, and is our top pick for babies and first-time gecko keepers.

OPTION B: 70/30 REPTILE SOIL & QUARTZ SAND MIX

Once your gecko is an adult with overhead heat, 3–4" of packed reptile soil + fine sand lets them dig like they do in the wild. **Big no-no: never use calcium sand!**

UVB Light vs. Calcium + D3 Powder

Because Leopard Geckos mostly come out at dusk, you have two solid ways to give them Vitamin D3:

OPTION A: LOW-OUTPUT SHADE UVB BAR (5%–7%)

A gentle linear T5 Shade UVB tube lets them soak up UV naturally when they poke a leg or tail out of their hide during the day.

OPTION B: DUSTING BUGS WITH CALCIUM + D3

No UVB light? No problem (especially for light-sensitive albinos) — just dust their bugs once a week with Calcium + D3 powder.

Flip Over for Page 2: Feeding Schedule, Team Tips & Grab-and-Go Checklist →

3. What & How Often to Feed (100% Live Bugs!)

EASY RULE OF THUMB: NO BUG BIGGER THAN THE SPACE BETWEEN THEIR EYES

Babies (0–6 Months)
Feed Every Day (5–8 small bugs): Growing babies are bottomless pits! Dust bugs with **Pure Calcium** at almost every meal, **Calcium + D3** 1–2×/week, and a **Multivitamin** once a week.

Sub-Adults (6–12 Months)
Every Other Day (4–5 meals/week): Dust with **Pure Calcium** 2–3×/week, **Calcium + D3** once a week, and a **Multivitamin** every week or two.

Adults (12+ Months)
2–3× Per Week (6–8 bugs/meal): Leave a tiny bottlecap of **Pure Calcium (no D3)** in the tank 24/7 — they'll actually lick it when they need it! Dust with D3 & Vitamins every 1–2 weeks.

Mix Up 2–3 of These Live Bugs So They Don't Get Picky:

- **Crickets & Dubia Roaches** — Best lean staples — great for hunting
- **Mealworms & Calci-Grubs** — Easy to leave in a smooth dish
- **Small Hornworms** — Juicy hydration treat after a shed
- **Waxworms (Careful!)** — Gecko junk food — treat once a month max!

Keeper Trick — Feed the Bugs First! Bugs from a cup are only as nutritious as what's in their belly. Toss a carrot slice, squash, or gut-load chow into your bug tub 24 hours before feeding. Also, pick a multivitamin with **real preformed Vitamin A** (not just beta-carotene) to keep their eyes and sheds healthy!

4. Tips, Tricks & Big No-Nos from Our Reptile Team

REAL-WORLD HABITS THAT KEEP THEM THRIVING

Check Toes After Shedding!
Geckos peel and eat their own shed skin overnight (weird, we know!). Always check their toes the next morning — if a tiny ring of dry skin is stuck, give a 10-minute warm 85°F soak and gently roll it off with a damp Q-tip.

Watch the Tail!
Give a new gecko a week to settle in before handling. Scoop from underneath and **never grab their tail** — if they think a predator has them, they'll drop their tail on the spot!

Tail Plumpness = Health
Your gecko's tail is their fat-storage pantry! You want the thickest part of the tail about as wide as their neck. If the tail gets skinny, legs look bendy, or eyes look crusty, check in with an exotic vet.

Ditch Colored Night Bulbs
Red and purple 'night bulbs' are an old myth — geckos can see that light plain as day and it messes up their sleep! Let the tank go completely dark at night; only use a lightless heat emitter if your room drops below 65°F.

5. Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

ASK US ON THE FLOOR — WE'LL HELP YOU MATCH EVERYTHING!

HABITAT & FLOORING
- [ ] 20-Gal Long or 36"×18" Front-Opening Terrarium
- [ ] Solid Option: Non-Adhesive Textured Liner or Slate Tile
- [ ] Natural Option: Reptile Soil + Fine Quartz Sand (No Calcium Sand!)
- [ ] Sphagnum Moss (for inside the humid shed cave)

HEATING, THERMOSTAT & GAUGES
- [ ] Digital Thermostat (Mandatory for Heat Mats & Heaters)
- [ ] Digital Probe Thermometer & Hygrometer
- [ ] Overhead Option: 50W–75W Halogen Basking Bulb + Dome
- [ ] Belly Option: Under-Tank Heat Mat
- [ ] Optional UVB: Low-Output 5%–7% Shade T5 Linear UVB

HIDES, DISHES & SUPPLEMENTS
- [ ] Enclosed Humid Shed Cave (keep damp moss inside!)
- [ ] 2 Snug Caves (1 for the Warm Side, 1 for the Cool Side)
- [ ] Shallow Water Dish + Smooth Escape-Proof Worm Dish
- [ ] Pure Calcium (No D3) & Calcium (With D3)
- [ ] Reptile Multivitamin (with Preformed Vitamin A) + Bug Gut-Load

A Quick Note from Our Team — Keep Learning & Ask Us Anytime!

The quick version: there's more than one right way to set up a great enclosure! As long as your temperatures, humidity, and diet are dialed in, your pet doesn't care whether its cave is fancy resin or a terra-cotta pot. Bringing home this critter is a **15–20+ year commitment** — use these two pages as your home-base cheat sheet, watch what your pet tells you with their daily behavior, find a good local exotic vet, and call or stop by the shop anytime you have questions!

MY GECKO'S INFO

Name / Morph: _____

Current Diet: _____

Date Adopted: _____