INSIDE FLAP • KEEPER HABITS

4 Keys to Long-Term Health

Small Daily Habits That Prevent 95% of Vet Visits

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.

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!

BACK COVER • TAKE THIS TO THE AISLE

Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

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

MY GECKO'S INFO & FEEDING LOG

Name / Morph: _____

Gotcha Date & Weight: _____

Current Feeder Size & Day: _____

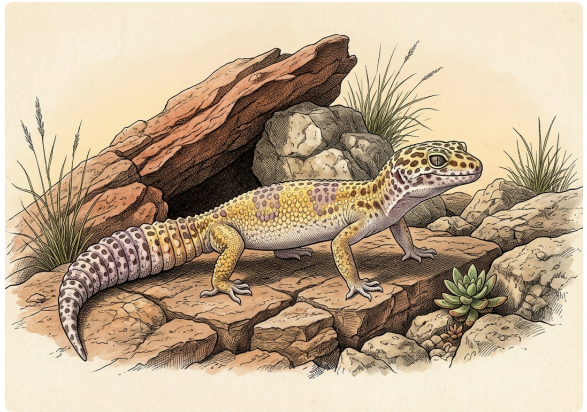
Critter Cabana & Cascade Pet Supply

Questions about heating, shedding, or a picky eater? Stop by or call our reptile team anytime — we're here for the full 15–20+ year commitment!

CRITTER CABANA & CASCADE PET SUPPLY • CARE GUIDE

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.

QUICK VITAL STATS AT-A-GLANCE

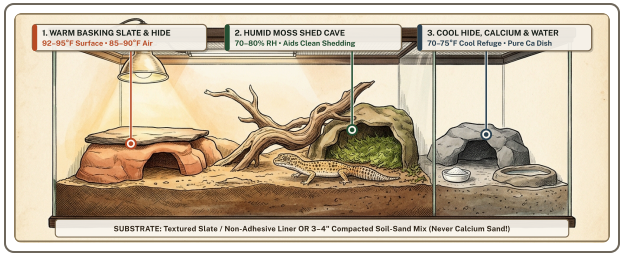
LIFESPAN **15–20+ Years**	ADULT SIZE **7–10 Inches**
ACTIVE HOURS **Dusk & Night**	ADULT TANK **20L Min / 36×18"**
HOUSING **Strictly 1 / Tank**	

OPEN FOR TANK SETUP, TEMPS, FEEDING & SHOPPING LIST →

STEP 1 • HABITAT & CLIMATE

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**

Thermostat & Gauge Rule: Stick-on dial gauges can be off by 10°F+! Use a digital probe thermometer/hygrometer and always plug heating mats and heat emitters into a **digital thermostat**.

STEP 2 • STOCKED STORE OPTIONS

Two Ways That Work

Pick Option A or Option B Based on Your Home Setup

Heating: Under-Tank Heat Mat vs. Overhead Bulb

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

OPTION A: UNDER-TANK HEAT MAT + DIGITAL THERMOSTAT (STAFF PICK)
Warms the floor right under the warm hide so they can digest bugs at night. **Big rule:** plug it into a digital thermostat set to 90–92°F!

OPTION B: OVERHEAD HALOGEN BULB OR DEEP HEAT PROJECTOR
A 50W–75W halogen bulb or Deep Heat Projector warms a flat piece of slate and the air around it — awesome for glass terrariums.

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, works great with under-tank heat mats, 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, 3–4" of packed Reptisoil + fine quartz 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%–6% T5)
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.

STEP 3 • DIET & NUTRITION

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!

First-Week Rule: Give your new Leopard Gecko **5 to 7 days of peace and quiet** in its new tank before handling or offering its very first meal so it can map out its hides and feel safe!