# **Leopard Geckos**



Leopard Geckos originate from the desert and require a warm, dry environment; however, they need access to a moist hiding place to help with shedding. Up to three Leopard Geckos can be housed together; only one male per habitat.

# **Terrarium**

- (A) Use a well-ventilated, 10-gallon (18-20" long) or larger terrarium for one or two Leopard Geckos.
- **(B)** Screened lid, if not included with habitat.

Leopard Geckos require a temperature gradient (cool side/warm side) to appropriately regulate their body temperature. Temperatures within the habitat should also vary between daytime and nighttime hours.

### **Heating**

- Equip the habitat with two thermometers (one for each side of habitat) and one hygrometer to monitor the humidity levels.
- Supplemental heat should be provided by an under-tank heater (not shown) placed on one side of the habitat. Turn off under-tank heaters at night if the ambient temperature does not drop below  $65^{\circ}$  F.
- Use an under-tank heater, ceramic heat emitter or night heat lamp as needed to maintain nighttime temperatures.

#### Lighting

- Leopard Geckos are nocturnal and don't require ultraviolet light but need a 12-hour light/dark cycle. If room light does not provide enough light, use a fluorescent bulb to provide additional daylight.
- For night viewing, and to minimize light seen by your gecko, use a night-specific bulb.

# **Substrate**

- (E) Use a 2-3" (5-8 cm) layer of calcium sand or reptile carpet. For geckos under 6" (15 cm), use reptile carpet to prevent accidental ingestion and impaction from sand.
- Clean out waste weekly and completely change bedding at least once a month.

### **Decor**

- **(F)** Add a wood/rock hiding place in the cool area of the home. Line the hiding area with moist moss to provide necessary moisture.
- Ensure decor is large enough for the size of your Leopard Gecko and that you have at least one hiding area for each gecko.
- **(G)** Provide branches (artificial or live) for hiding and climbing.



# Health

New surroundings and environments can be stressful for pets. Prior to handling your Leopard Gecko, give him 3-4 days to adjust to his new surroundings while monitoring his behavior for any signs of stress or illness. Shortly after purchase, have a veterinarian familiar with reptiels examine your Leopard Gecko.

- Things To Watch For
  Runny droppings for more than two days
  Eating or drinking less; weight loss
  Swollen joints

- Discharge from the eyes, nose or mouth
- Shedding problems; discolored skin
  Increase in the amount of time spent hiding