

# Leopard Gecko Care Guide

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## Diet

Feed gutloaded mealworms, superworms, roaches, and crickets. Pinky mice can be fed to older leopard geckos on occasion.

Leopard geckos may not eat for 3-4 days once you receive them and put them in their new home.

## Gutloading

Make sure to gutload all food for 24 hours prior to feeding. Gutloading is simply feeding the prey items such as hog mash, chicken feed, vegetables, fruits, oats, or crushed dog food. In addition, I add a calcium/vitamin powder called vionate to the gutload.

## Supplementation

Animals under one year and gravid females:

- Leave a dish of vionate in the enclosure
- Dust all food with osteo-form twice a week
- Dust all food with vionate once a week

Animals over one year:

- Leave a dish of osteo-form in the enclosure
- Dust all food with osteo-form twice a week
- Dust all food with vionate once a week

You can purchase vionate and osteo-form online. Otherwise, use Rep-Cal without D3.

## Water

Fresh clean water should be available at all times. Small dishes such as 2oz. ramekins work well.

## Temperature

Keep the ambient temperature of the cage at 78-80 degrees. Using an under the tank heater, a hot spot providing belly heat of 88-90 degrees should be available.

DO NOT use heat rocks! They can overheat which can cause burns or even death.

## **Caging**

Glass aquariums work well. Up to two leos can live in a 10-gallon tank. A 20-gallon long makes a nice display tank.

Never house two males in the same cage. You can safely house multiple females together.

## **Hides**

Provide at least one hide for your leopard gecko. You can use a gladware sandwich container with a hole cut in the lid. Fill the container with a layer of sphagnum peat moss. Spray the moss weekly to keep it moist. This will provide your gecko with the proper humidity required in order to shed.

## **Substrate**

Newspaper, reptile carpet, indoor/outdoor carpet, paper towels, slate, tile.

Sand – I prefer not to use sand. If you choose to use sand for a substrate, make sure your leopard gecko is at least 40 grams in weight. In addition, the sand should be 100% silica free play sand. Be sure to sift all small rocks and pebbles out of the sand before using.

## **Lighting**

Leopard geckos are nocturnal animals and do not require special lighting. Any lighting used is for your viewing purposes. Keep in mind that albino leopard geckos are sensitive to bright light. Use lower wattage bulbs when housing albinos.

## **Recommended Reading**

- The Herpetoculture of Leopard Geckos by Philippe de Vosjoli, Ron Tremper and Roger Klingenberg
- The Leopard Gecko Manual by Philippe De Vosjoli, Roger Klingenberg, Roger Tremper, Brian Viets