

Leopard gecko

Eublepharis macularius

🇫🇷 Gecko léopard 🇩🇪 Leopardgecko

NAC+Vet



REGULATIONS

Not CITES-listed

OPAn: minimum standards for nocturnal reptiles (multiple hides, heat gradient; UVB advisable). Individual housing common; keep basic records.



LIFESPAN

15–20 years



ADULT WEIGHT

50–100 g



LIFESTYLE

Nocturnal / Terrestrial



BODY TEMPERATURE

Ectothermic



SEXUAL MATURITY

10–18 months



INCUBATION

21–21 days



LITTER / CLUTCH SIZE

2–2 eggs



Habitat & environment



Type — Terrarium made of glass or plexiglass (easy-to-clean, heat-retaining materials). Ventilation on each side of the terrarium is essential.



Substrate — Sandmat Exoterra®, kitchen paper, newspaper. Substrates that can be ingested (sand, soil, or those used for the humid hide) carry a risk of intestinal impaction: use only with certain precautions.



Equipment

- Several hides on the warm and cool sides
- Humid hide (sphagnum, vermiculite or a damp sponge) to aid shedding
- Shallow water dish
- Stones
- Branches



To avoid

- Heating plates
- Hot rocks
- Heat mats inside the terrarium
- Lamps too close to the animal and unprotected (risk of burns)



Technical parameters



Hot spot

30–32 °C



Cool spot

20–25 °C



Humidity

40–50 %



Lighting



Photoperiod — 12 h cycle



UVB need — Recommended



Lamp type — Low-intensity UVB fluorescent tube



Recommended brands — X-Reptile · Reptile Expert · Solar Raptor · Arcadia



Replacement — Every 6 months (UVB depletes before visible light)

Leopard geckos are crepuscular, so in the wild they are also exposed to UVB. However, unlike bearded dragons for example, they can absorb calcium given as a dietary supplement without UVB radiation. With regular calcium intake, UVB is therefore not considered vital compared with some other lizard species; it is nonetheless appreciated, improves calcium absorption and best reproduces the gecko's natural environment.



UVB does not pass through glass or plexiglass. Place the lamp inside the terrarium, under a protective grille.

Behaviour

Nocturnal terrestrial lizard, docile. Starts activity at dusk.

 **Social life** — Solitary or small groups of females. Males fight. Male/female cohabitation not advised.

 **Activity cycle** — Nocturnal, crepuscular.

Enrichment

- Hunting live insects
- Multiple hideouts (warm, cool, humid)
- Variety of ground textures

Nutrition

Strictly insectivorous: no fruit, vegetables or vertebrate prey. Vary the prey, feed the insects (gut-loading) and supplement with calcium/vitamins. Match the prey size (width $\leq$ distance between the eyes). Roaches (Dubia, lateralis) and black soldier fly larvae offer a good Ca:P ratio.

Daily base

 Cricket

 Locust

 Roach

 Silkworm

Supplements

Organic carrot juice can help prevent vitamin A deficiency.

Dust calcium powder onto the food 2-3× per week.

Reptile multivitamins: 2-4 times/month.

★ **Treats (occasional)**

Keep fatty prey (wax moths, meal/superworms) as occasional treats.

Mealworm

Very fatty, treat only.

FREQUENCY

- Juveniles: 4-5× per week
- Adults: 2-3× per week

Health & prevention

WARNING SIGNS

- Incomplete shedding (toes, eyes)
- Lethargy
- Anorexia
- Thin tail (loss of reserves)
- Tremors
- Rubber jaw

If any of these symptoms appear, prompt veterinary care is essential.
Contact an exotic-pet vet as soon as possible.

Common conditions

Vitamin A deficiency

SYMPTOMS Eye problems, poor shedding, immune issues

CAUSE Diet low in vitamin A

PREVENTION Organic carrot juice, vitamin supplements

Nutritional osteodystrophy

SYMPTOMS Bone deformities, tremors, weakness

CAUSE Calcium deficiency

PREVENTION Calcium supplementation

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