



# Fattail Gecko

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## FUN FACT!

African fat-tailed geckos are nocturnal ground dwelling lizards that originate from desert areas in West Africa. African fat-taileds are becoming an increasingly popular pet, in part because of their ability to thrive in captivity but also because of their docile dispositions and their openness for being handled. Their normal coloring consists of a pale tan or brown background that is accented by bold brown and tan stripes, with some also displaying a thin white stripe along their back. They are one of only a few species of geckos that have eyelids, which help keep their eyes clean in their dusty natural environment.



## General Diet

Fattail geckos are mainly insectivores, so they eat mostly insects such as small crickets, Dubia roaches. As adults they may also eat the occasional pinkie mouse. These can be bought frozen and are very good for geckos.



## **Vitamins/Supplements**

Reptiles need to have a vitamin/mineral supplement with calcium and phosphorous. This supplement should be sprinkled on the adult's food items once a week or 2 times a week for very young reptiles. We will be glad to explain how often to feed and give supplements to your new pet.

## **Housing**

Fattail geckos stay relatively small, so a juvenile individual can be kept in a ten-gallon tank. Although a 20-gallon long tank is better for an adult, three or more may be kept as a colony in a larger tank as long as only one of the geckos is a male. A screen should be used on top.

Reptiles are cold blooded. This means they get their heat from an outside source, unlike humans who can make their own heat. Different areas of the habitat should be at different temperatures, so reptiles can move around to heat up or cool off. Leopard geckos are comfortable with a daytime temperature in their tank of 85-90 degrees and a nighttime temperature of 68-75. Heat pads can also be used in addition to the heat bulb if the tank especially large or if the room is cool.

## **Sanitation/General Care**

Change the water as needed, usually three to five times a week. The litter or substrate used on the bottom should be cleaned as often as needed, and this will depend on habitat size and your pet's size.

## **General Maintenance**

Mist the tank lightly once or twice a week. Reptiles will shed their skin periodically. Mist them more often during these times to help them shed the skin more easily. Be sure the tank is at the right temperature at all times.



## Health Care

Leopard geckos are generally very hardy and healthy when kept in the right conditions. They do not require any yearly check ups or vaccines.

## Special Section



Reptiles can carry one disease that can be transmitted to people called salmonellosis. It is always important to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after you have handled your pet or anything in your pet's cage. Keep your pet out of the kitchen area and do not allow very small children to handle any reptiles.

## SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

aquarium	Water/Food Dish
Screen Cover	Sphagnum moss
Humidity Gauge	Thermometer
Under tank heater	Reptile Substrate
Heat lamp with day bulb	Hide
Branches	Decorations



1216 Railroad Street  
Saint Johnsbury, Vermont 05819  
(802) 748-8858

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