

# House Gecko Care Sheet

*Because we care !!!*



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**Your Pets Super Store**



**Congratulations on your new pet. Common house geckos reach an adult length of three to five inches (total length). Their color varies from a yellowish tan color with darker spots or blotches in the light to a pale grey-white; they often appear paler at night. They have specialized toe pads that allow them to effortlessly move along vertical surfaces and upside down. With proper care they can live five or more years. They are very fast and fragile pets and do not do well being handled and can detach their tail quite easily. This makes them a poor choice for children.**

## HOUSING

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A 10-20 gallon tall terrarium is sufficient for a couple of house geckos, but bigger is better. Keep in mind that house geckos need vertical space for climbing so use a tall tank. Males are territorial so should only be kept one to a cage, but females will get along given enough space and hiding places. The substrate for house geckos should be something that retains moisture, such as reptile bark or Eco Earth. House geckos need a moderate to high humidity level; aim for 60-75 percent. Use a humidity gauge to make sure levels are correct. Regular misting should provide the right humidity. House geckos need room to climb, so provide branches, driftwood, and silk or live plants. They also need hiding spots such as reptile caves. Provide enough hides to give multiple geckos space to hide from each other. A small shallow water dish can be provided with fresh water daily, but they may prefer to drink from water droplets on leaves.

## HEAT AND LIGHTING

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A daytime temperature of 75-90 degrees fahrenheit should be provided, with a drop at night to 65-75 degrees. Heat can be provided by a ceramic heat element or reptile bulbs in a reflector, or the Exo-Terra Heatwave terrarium substrate heater under the tank. White incandescent bulbs or blue reptile bulbs can be used, only use them during day time hours. A red night time bulb can be used for heat at night. House geckos are nocturnal so they do not need special UV lighting.

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## DIET

Crickets can make up the main part of the diet, with the addition of the occasional meal worm. Crickets should be gut loaded prior to feeding, and dusted with a calcium supplement two to three times a week and a multivitamin once a week. Feed in the evening; juveniles should be fed daily but adults can be fed every other day. Feed as much as your house gecko will consume eagerly. Misting plants several times a day in the tank will form water droplets that the gecko can lick. A bowl of fresh water should be provided, even if they prefer the droplets.

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## CLEANING

Change the water and remove droppings daily. Thoroughly clean the tank once a week. Put the gecko in a secure place then scrub the tank and furnishings with Healthy Habitat. Rinse everything well so no cleaning odors remain. Add fresh moist substrate and the furnishing.

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## HEALTH

Geckos are generally healthy and should live five or more years with proper care. Always wash your hands before and after handling reptiles.

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## FERTILITY

Geckos do not usually breed in captivity.

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## BOOKS

Geckos

Barron's

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## CHECK LIST

- \_\_\_\_\_ 10-20 gallon aquarium or vertical terrarium
- \_\_\_\_\_ substrate
- \_\_\_\_\_ shallow water bowl
- \_\_\_\_\_ humidity gauge
- \_\_\_\_\_ thermometer
- \_\_\_\_\_ plants and branches
- \_\_\_\_\_ misting bottle
- \_\_\_\_\_ heat source
- \_\_\_\_\_ vitamin / mineral / calcium supplement