

arid gecko

care sheet



Arid geckos come in a variety of interesting colors and are great for first-time lizard pet parents.

facts

- average adult size: 4 to 9 inches long, depending on species
- average life span: up to 20 years with proper care
- diet: insectivore

Will reach adult size in 9 to 18 months, depending on species and under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your reptile grows.



Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, refer to the Sources section or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.

arid gecko

includes leopard geckos and Tibetan frog-eyed geckos

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diet

A well-balanced arid gecko diet consists of:

- A variety of insects, including crickets, small mealworms and waxworms. Use gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets no larger than the space between the gecko's eyes.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your arid gecko:

- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times.
- Feed juveniles and adults daily.
- Sprinkle food with calcium supplement daily and a multi-vitamin supplement once or twice a week.

housing

- Size - Appropriately sized habitat with secure cover.
- Habitat - Provide hiding areas with non-toxic plants, branches, logs and cork; keep hiding areas away from the heat source. Maintain humidity below 50%.
- Substrate - Use forest bedding, calci sand or terrarium carpet.

- Temperature - Temperature gradient (88°F for the warm end and 78°F for the cool end).
- Lighting - Provide lighting for 10 to 12 hours a day; an incandescent bulb can be used for basking area during daylight hours only; can use a ceramic heater or nocturnal heat bulb at all hours.
- Arid geckos will need UVB lighting if they are not nocturnal.
- Do **not** house males together and do **not** house different reptile species together.

normal behavior

- Nocturnal (active during the night) and hide under rocks or burrow into the sand during the day.
- Never grab a gecko by its tail as they may drop their tail.

habitat maintenance

- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the habitat at least once a week: place gecko in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all traces of bleach smell. Dry the tank and furnishings completely and add clean substrate.

grooming and hygiene

- Geckos regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is at appropriate level to allow proper shedding. To facilitate shedding, bathe in a container that allows the gecko to immerse its entire body or provide a shed box, a hide box with sphagnum moss, that will aid in the shedding process.

signs of a healthy animal

- Active and alert
- Clear eyes
- Body and tail are rounded, filled out
- Healthy skin
- Clear nose and vent
- Eats regularly

red flags

- Weight loss or decreased appetite
- Mucus in mouth or nose
- Swelling
- Lethargy
- Bumps, sores or abrasions on skin
- Labored breathing
- Paralysis of limbs
- Abnormal feces
- Retained shed

If you notice any of these signs, contact your veterinarian.

common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Gastro-intestinal disease	Runny stools, caked or smeared stool around the vent area and loss of appetite caused by bacterial or parasitic infection.	Consult your veterinarian.
Metabolic bone/vitamin deficiency	Inability to absorb calcium due to insufficient UVB light, or not being provided the proper amount of calcium/vitamin D supplements. If untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities and softened bones. Swollen limbs and lethargy.	Consult your veterinarian and provide ample UVB lighting and proper calcium/vitamin supplements.
Respiratory disease	Labored breathing and mucus in the mouth or nose. Can be caused by a habitat that is too cold or damp.	Consult your veterinarian and ensure habitat is the proper temperature.

shopping list for needed supplies

- Appropriately sized habitat
- Substrate
- Moss
- Water dish
- Mealworm dish
- Hideaway place
- Plants
- Heat light
- Heat fixture
- Under-tank heater (optional)
- Vitamin supplement
- Calcium supplement
- Cricket keeper
- Cricket food
- Cricket quencher
- Thermometer
- Humidity gauge
- Book about arid geckos

sources

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on arid geckos and the variety of private brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All private brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all reptiles are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as *Salmonella*, always wash your hands before and after handling your reptile or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of disease.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5, senior citizens and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing or caring for reptiles and should consider not having a reptile as a pet.

Go to cdc.gov/healthypets and petco.com/caresheet for more information about small animals and disease.

This Care Sheet can cover the care needs of other species. Go to petco.com for more information.

