Tropical geckos can lighten or darken their skin tone to blend into their environment. Also, many of these geckos can walk on vertical surfaces or even the ceiling of their habitat.

**facts**

average adult size: 4 to 12 inches depending on species

average life span: up to 10+ years with proper care

diet: insectivore

Will reach adult size in 6 to 18 months, depending on species and under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your reptile grows.
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

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

Diet

A well-balanced tropical gecko diet consists of:
- A variety of insects, including gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets, roaches, mealworms, and waxworms.
- Some species, such as golden geckos, like fruit-flavored baby food.

Feeding

Things to remember when feeding your tropical gecko:
- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times.
- Feed your gecko appropriately sized insects based on their size. A cricket should not be larger than the space between their eyes.
- Feed daily.
- Sprinkle food with calcium supplement daily and a multi-vitamin supplement once or twice a week.

Housing

- Size - Appropriately sized and shaped habitat to accommodate normal behaviors and exercise.
- Habitat - Thick branches for climbing; tall, dense, non-toxic plants for hiding, a hiding place on the ground for species like African fat-tailed geckos and a hiding area elevated off the habitat floor is also necessary for arboreal geckos. Maintain 50 to 70% humidity by misting as needed every day.
- Substrate - Use a mulch type such as coconut fiber or bark.
- Temperature - Temperature gradient (95°F for the warm end and 70°F for the cool end); Use an incandescent light or ceramic heater as primary heat source.
- Lighting - UVB rays with full spectrum lighting for 10 to 12 hours a day is recommended for some geckos; most tropical geckos need fluorescent light for 10 to 12 hours a day. An incandescent day bulb can be used for basking area if not using a ceramic heater.
- House adult tropical geckos separately and do not house different reptile species together.

Normal Behavior

- Most tropical gecko species are nocturnal (active at night).

Common Health Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Issue</th>
<th>Symptoms or Causes</th>
<th>Suggested Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gastro-intestinal disease</td>
<td>Runny stools, caked or smeared stool around the vent area and loss of appetite caused by bacterial or parasitic infection.</td>
<td>Consult your veterinarian.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metabolic bone/vitamin deficiency</td>
<td>Inability to absorb calcium due to insufficient UVB light, or improper calcium/vitamin D. If untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities and softened bones. Swollen limbs and lethargy.</td>
<td>Consult your veterinarian and provide ample UVB lighting and proper calcium/vitamin supplements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory disease</td>
<td>Labored breathing and mucus in the mouth or nose. Can be caused by a habitat that is too cold or damp.</td>
<td>Consult your veterinarian and ensure habitat is the proper temperature.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signs of a Healthy Animal

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

Grooming and Hygiene

- Geckos regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is at appropriate level to allow proper shedding.
- Provide a shed box, which is essentially a hide box with sphagnum moss, that will aid in the shedding process.
shopping list for needed supplies

- Appropriately sized habitat
- Substrate
- Moss
- Water and mealworm dishes
- Hideaway place
- Climbing décor
- Plants
- Heat light
- Heat fixture
- Under-tank heater (optional)
- UVB lighting and fixture
- Vitamin supplement
- Calcium supplement
- Cricket keeper
- Cricket food
- Cricket quencher
- Thermometer
- Humidity gauge
- Book about tropical geckos

sources

Ask a store partner about Petco’s selection of books on tropical 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.