

Please Call With any Questions or Concerns

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exotic-focused
Veterinarians on staff
including the Owner of the
practice, Dr. Spindel.

Please call to schedule an
appointment with one of
our wonderful
Veterinarians today!

Supply List:

- Tank
- Repti-Carpet or Tiles
- Under Tank Heat Mat and Thermostat
- Ceramic Heat-Emitter
- UVB Light (low watt)
- Water Dish and Spay Bottle
- Cage Décor
- Calcium + D3 Supplement
- Multivitamin Supplement
- Insects of Choice
- Insect Gut Loading Food and Water
- Small Travel Cage
- IR Thermometer

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Terrestrial Geckos Care Sheet

Animal Ark Veterinary Hospital
3515 Lawrence St
Clemmons NC 27012
336-778-2738



There are many different species of
terrestrial geckos. The most
common in the pet trade are the
Leopard Geckos and African Fat-
Tailed Geckos.



1. Heat Source: Geckos need a warm side and cool side to their tank. The warm side should be about 85-90F. Ambient temperatures should stay above 75F. Heat sources can include an under-the-tank heating pad and/or a ceramic heat bulb. They should be on one side of the tank and an IR thermometer can be used to check the temperatures (not pictured).
2. UVB Light: Geckos are nocturnal and would not get a lot of UVB light but studies have shown benefits to offering the light during the day and the animal using it as they need. A low-watt bulb can be used but it is not required.
3. Elevated Spot: Many Geckos like to climb a bit but are poor climbers so like shown, elevated spots should be minimal and have a ramp to get up.
4. Bottom Substrate: If Geckos are fed in their tank, their substrate needs to be a material they cannot eat. The Repti-carpet works well, but a smooth tile is also a great choice. They can then have a sand dig box for time out of the cage or placed in during supervised play to prevent impaction.
5. Water dish: A water dish of decent size should be provided at all times as many Geckos like a soak in their dish, which helps them shed.
6. Tank: Geckos do not get very large but are very active at night and a tank size of at least 20 gallons is optimal for 2 adults (20 G long is even better). As juveniles, a smaller tank can be used and increased as they grow or they can be hand-fed/fed in a smaller tank to help them catch live prey easier.

Diet:

Geckos' diet is made up of **insects**, therefore the quality of the insects is important.

Example diet: A variety of gut-loaded small, crickets, mealworms, and calci-worms should be offered. Gut-loaded insects should make up the bulk of the diet. Some will eat the gecko formulated pellets.

Always use gut-loaded insects and add a calcium +D3 and multivitamin supplement to food.

Good to Know:

-Since many Geckos will not appear to drink from a water dish, misting them a couple of times a day is a great way to ensure they drink.

-Unlike snakes, Gecko's skin sheds in patches. Many geckos will ingest their shed too. They often get pieces of old skin stuck on their toes, soaking them can help loosen the skin so it properly falls off. Also providing a hide that has moist moss in it can help as well.

-In groups of females, some Geckos can live well together. However, many do much better in solitary.

-Two adult males should not be housed together.