



African Fat Tail Gecko

Scientific Name: Hemitheconyx Caudicinctus

Enclosure

Regardless of whether you are a hobbyist breeder or a pet owner, our advice is the same. That is to keep it simple! For pet owners, a great option for caging is a glass enclosure (aquarium or terrarium). For those keeping several geckos, a rack system may be a better option. Juvenile geckos will do well in a 5gallon tank or shoe box style tub. While adults will require a minimum of 10 gallon tank or 28qt tub. Geckos should be housed individually with the exception of for breeding purposes.

Heating & Lighting

We believe it is best for the heat to be provided from below. In the case of a glass enclosure you can use an under tank heater, while the breeder's best option for a rack system is heat cable or heat tape controlled by a thermostat. Because reptiles are cold-blooded and rely on their environment to control body temperature it is important that the heat source remains at 90F and is situated at one end. This will give the gecko the ability to thermo regulate by moving from the heat source to a cooler area of the enclosure ranging in the high 70's to low 80's. In other words do not heat the entire enclosure. Leopard geckos should be exposed to light for 10-12 hours per day but because they are nocturnal they do not require a UVB light.

Substrate

For ease of cleaning and health purposes we recommend using a paper substrate such as newspaper, butcher/packing paper or paper towel. **DO NOT** use sand, as this can cause the gecko to be impacted within their digestive track should they ever ingest it.

Food/Water/Supplements

Fat tail gecko's diet typically consists of crickets and/or mealworms. They may also readily accept silkworms, waxworms, or other insects, but these food items should only be given as a supplement as they are high in fat content. Insects should be gutloaded with either a commercial gutload or you can make your own. Food items should be dusted with calcium powder and vitamins at every second feeding. Alternatively, calcium can be left in the enclosure at all times in a shallow dish(bottle cap works well). Crickets can be put in the enclosure to roam but should be removed if your gecko does not eat them within a few hours. Mealworms can be left in a shallow dish. Provide a fresh bowl of water daily.

Humidity

General humidity of the enclosure should be kept at 50-70%.

Shelter

Fat tail geckos are nocturnal so shelters within their enclosure will provide them with a peaceful retreat to sleep or hide in. These can be as elaborate as you like or can be as simple as a plastic container turned upside down with a door cut into it to allow the gecko's passage. At least one of these hide areas should be kept moist to assist the shedding process, using damp paper towel or moss. We recommend putting at least one hide on the hot end and the cool end.

Shedding

Fat tail geckos will shed their skin approximately every four weeks. Prior to each shed the gecko will start to appear dull in coloration. It is very important to ensure that the gecko has a moist area in its habitat during this period to aid the shedding process. Shedding typically takes a few hours to complete and while you may see some of the shed skin at the bottom of the cage, it is often eaten immediately by the gecko. If your gecko has any unshed skin, which can happen in areas like the toes, we suggest letting your gecko soak in a shallow container of lukewarm water for 15-30 minutes. You can then assist the process by gently removing the skin using tweezers. Alternatively to soaking in water, there is a product called "Repti Shedding Aid" that works well.

Disclaimer

The information found above is based on research and experience of Maritime Geckos. The information provided on this care sheet is what we believe is accurate and best for the reptile mentioned, and, may vary from other care sheets. The information provided is for educational purposes only.