

# MARITIME GECKOS

## **Moorish Gecko**

**Scientific Name:** Tarentola Mauritanica

### **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). Moorish geckos do well in a 12x12x18 terrarium. Geckos should be housed individually with the exception of for breeding purposes.

### **Heating & Lighting**

Provide a basking spot of 80-85 degrees for your gecko. Moorish geckos should be exposed to light for 10-12 hours per day but because they are nocturnal they do not require a UVB light but may benefit from it if provided.

### **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**

Moorish 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. 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 30-50%. A light mist every couple days can be beneficial.

### **Shelter**

Moorish 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. Adding several hides will provide variety and comfort to your gecko.

### **Shedding**

Moorish geckos will shed their skin approximately every four to eight 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.