

Day geckos have become increasingly popular as pets, and even have the now famous Geico Gecko named after them! Day geckos come in a variety of vibrant colors, and because of their beauty and size, are ideal for a home terrarium. These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

TANK SET UP

Day geckos should be kept alone in a well ventilated, tropical terrarium, at least 18" x 18" x 24". The enclosure should be taller than it is wide, as day geckos are arboreal, and need climbing space more than ground space.

SUBSTRATE

Several layers of substrate can help maximize vivarium humidity. You can start with an inch of pebbles, cover with an inch of Repti-bark, and then add EcoEarth on top. You can also place a thin layer of moss over top of the EcoEarth to help keep humidity in the substrate.

TEMPERATURE

Day geckos need an ambient temperature between 80-85°F, and a basking area of 90°F. The night temperature may fall to the low 70's. If it gets any cooler than that, a red night bulb must be used. If the temperature is still not warm enough, a heat pad ON THE BACK glass panel will help. Do not use a heat pad under the tank, as the layers of substrate will impede the heat from rising.

LIGHTING

Day geckos are diurnal creatures, meaning they are awake during the day and need the full spectrum of sunlight. UVB and UVA lighting are essential for their well-being. They need a 5.0 UVB bulb, along with a basking bulb with appropriate wattage for the terrarium size. Use together and place 6-8" from the highest branch in the cage.

HUMIDITY

The natural habitat for a day gecko is 50%-60% humidity. With the proper substrate, lighting, and misting twice daily, this is easily attainable. A drip system for the water will also help keep the humidity at a constant level.

FEEDING

Day geckos eat a variety of insects and fruit nectar. Crickets, dubia roaches, butterworms, and waxworms may be fed, in conjunction with blended fruit mix or even baby food fruit. If you choose to purchase the commercial fruit mix, you may find if you mix in some baby food fruit, the gecko may eat it more willingly. Crickets make up the majority of their diet.

ACCESSORIES

Day geckos need a variety of fixtures to climb on. Large bark pieces, limbs, greenery, and bamboo make excellent choices. If you have cork and it is a hollowed "log", make sure there is more than enough space for the gecko to get in and out without getting stuck.

Developed in partnership with The Ontario County Humane Society