**LEOPARD GECKO CARE**

**Housing**

    Leopard Geckos can live in 10 gallon tanks. They are nocturnal so no lighting is necessary. They need a place to hide. Leopard geckos also require a humidity spot in the enclosure so that they may properly shed their skin. Failure to provide such and area will often result in the loss of digits, as the old skin clings to the animal and may cut off circulation to these extremities. To make a humidity spot, obtain an enclosed Tupperware container that will comfortably house the gecko. Cut an access hole in the side of the container, and fill the container half way with moist peat, sphagnum moss, or even paper towels. This area must always be kept moist.The substrate can be as simple as paper towels, or as fancy as reptile sand. The sand is not supposed to be eaten despite what the package says. If you notice your gecko getting sand in his or her mouth when eating, you should change substrate.

**Heating**

 Leopard geckos generally require some type of supplemental heating. One end of the enclosure should be heated to 82 degrees, the other end be closer to 70 degrees. In aquariums, one of the best ways to provide this thermal gradient is to use an under-tank heating pad. Other heating options include heat light. So as not to disturb their nocturnal behavior, only blue or red bulbs should be used. Providing a correct thermal gradient is essential when keeping leopard geckos, without it, they have problems digesting food and regulating their immune systems.

**Feeding**

    Baby leopard geckos will take crickets that are slightly smaller than their heads, and small mealworms. Feed about 6-8 prey items to babies and juveniles four to five times a week. The adults will eat adult sized crickets, large mealworms, king mealworms, and occasional pinky mice. Adults should be fed four times a week. It is important to provide calcium supplementation to prevent nutritional disorders. Calcium powder can be placed in the food dish and they will eat it with their food.

**\*Geckos will drop their tails when they feel threatened, so they should only be held in a flat open hand. Never “grab” a gecko**.