

East Bay Vivarium

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Leopard Gecko Care Sheet

Leopard geckoes (*Eublepharis macularius*) come from the semi-arid desert region of the middle east, such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. This is the type of environment you should try to recreate.

Habitat:

Temperature: Establish a range of temperature from 80 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit. One end of the cage should be cool (80° F) and the other end hot (95° F). It is important to offer your gecko a choice of conditions. Always measure the temperature at the floor of the cage, and not the cage wall. Generally, treat the cold side as an absolute goal, and the hot side as a minimum goal.

Bedding: Sand is ideal for leopard geckos. For juveniles, we suggest Vita-Sand to prevent impaction. For adults, all sands we offer are OK. Other substrates can include pine shavings or hardwood chips. Avoid cedar and other aromatic woods.

Water: Provide a shallow dish with fresh water available at all times.

Hide Box: Provide a dark place for your gecko to hide in. Broken pottery and shoe boxes do well, as well as other available products. Damp moss, sand, or shavings may be placed in the box to aid in shedding.

Tank Size: 10 gallon minimum.

Habitat:

Feeding: A leopard gecko's diet consists of live insects. Feed 2–5 crickets, waxworms, or king mealworms three times a week for an adult. For a juvenile, feed 3–5 crickets, waxworms, or mealworms daily. Adults can take pinky mice once a week in addition to the insects.

Vitamins: Generously dust all insect foods with a 50/50 mixture of vitamins (such as "Herptivite") and calcium with D₃. Without these, your animal may develop vitamin and calcium deficiencies that can prove fatal.

Maintenance:

Shedding: It is important that your gecko shed his/her skin completely, especially the skin on the fingers and toes. Incomplete sheds over a period of time can lead to the loss of these digits. Mist your baby gecko's cage on the hot side heavily just prior to shedding to keep the skin supple. After the shed, examine the gecko to see if all the skin was removed. If not, soak your gecko in a shallow (ankle-depth) bath of tepid water (less than 80 ° F) for 20-30 minutes, then gently peel away any unshed skin by hand.

Cleaning: Spot clean individual messes as they occur and replace with fresh bedding. Clean the entire cage as needed.

Handling: Frequent handling is the best way to allow your gecko to feel comfortable under human care. It's OK to handle the animal for a short period every day; this will go a long way in producing a tame pet.

Any Questions? Don't hesitate to contact us!

Photo from <http://flic.kr/p/3o78Sp>

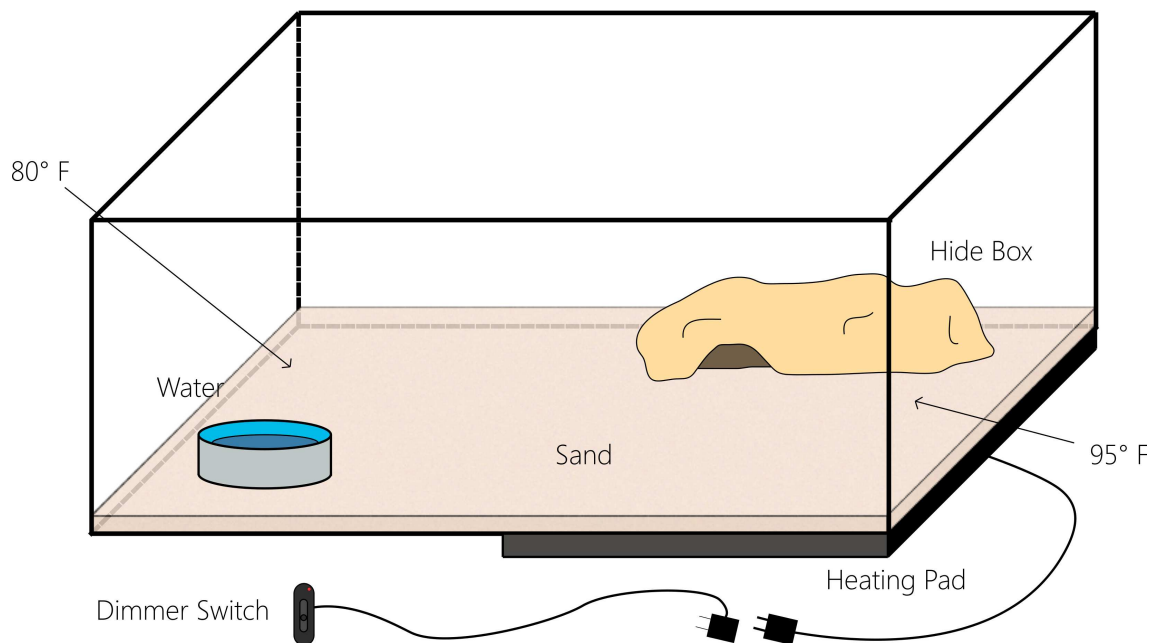


FIGURE 1. Sample Tank. Be sure to add a heating lamp to supplement the heat if you can't achieve the desired hot side temperature. If you use a thermostat, be sure to place the probe on the cold side of the cage, set for the cold side temperature.