

Madagascan Ground Gecko

The Madagascan Ground Gecko is a small terrestrial gecko that is considered a good reptile for beginners. They are usually of brown, cream or dark red colouration with black spots around the body. Their lifespan can range up to 10 years if cared for correctly.

Other common names include Panther Gecko, Ocelot Gecko and the Big-headed Gecko.



Glossary

Reptile – A cold-blooded vertebrate with scaly skin.

Amphibian – A cold-blooded vertebrate that begins life as an aquatic animal and grows into a terrestrial adult with lungs.

Terrestrial – A ground dwelling animal.

Arboreal – An animal that lives in trees.

Diurnal – Awake in the day.

Nocturnal – Awake during the night.

UVB – Ultraviolet radiation.

Colubrid – A family of snakes.

Hybrid – Offspring from animals of different species.

Morph – Colourations created due to genetics.

Musk – Unpleasant odour released when an animal is stressed or feels threatened.

Live plants are only available on special order

If you require any further information, please ask our pet care advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

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Madagascan Ground Gecko



Care & Advice Sheet

Inspiration for your Home & Garden



Size & Housing

Adults only tend to reach between 5-6 inches in length but have a large head for their body. They do not need large tanks but will explore if extra space is given.

Wooden vivariums or glass terrariums are ideal. We recommend:

45 x 45 x 45cm / 18 x 18 x 18" – Minimum for 1 Adult

60 x 45 x 45cm / 24 x 18 x 18" – Minimum for 2 Adults



Substrate & Furnishings

Newspaper or reptile carpet is recommended for young geckos. Loose substrates can be used for adults such as humus brick soils, rainforest barks reptile sands but always be wary of ingestion. These geckos will climb so provide plenty of branches, live or artificial plants and hides in the hot and cold ends of the enclosure. Use moss inside one hide and spray when needed to create a humid hide to help when shedding. This should be damp, not soaking. Spot pick the enclosure daily unless using newspaper, in that case change when soiled. Full clean the enclosure at least once a month using a reptile specific disinfectant.

Please Note – Not all live plants are reptile friendly.

Lighting & Temperature

Provide essential UVB (10 or 12%) to create a daytime cycle of 10-12 hours a day. This is best controlled by a timer. They are most comfortable with a temperature between 28-32°C – this is best achieved by using a heat bulb or ceramic heat emitter with a guard, controlled by a thermostat at all times. There should be a temperature gradient with 32°C being the hottest basking spot. Temperatures can drop to 22°C at night.

Food & Water

Madagascan ground geckos are insectivores and should be a fed a variety of appropriate sized insects such as:

- Crickets
- Locusts
- Mealworms
- Waxworms (treat)

Insects should be gut loaded before feeding and dusted with a calcium supplement 3 times a week and multivitamins (Nutrobal) once a week.

Fresh water should be offered daily. The enclosure can be lightly misted everyday as if it has rained lightly to provide some humidity. They will have their humid hide if needed.

Handling

These geckos are very jumpy and skittish and must be monitored at all times when taken out of their enclosure. Minimal handling is recommended but they will calm down after handling little and often. Never make sudden movements as this can scare the gecko and cause it to jump or run away.