

## Viper Gecko

The viper gecko is one of the smallest in the world. They have a life span of around 10 years and come from hot, dry areas in South Eastern Pakistan. They are nocturnal geckos and are mainly brown in colouration with white markings and a fat tail. Due to their small size, Viper geckos are likely to view most things as a predator and will drop their tails as a defence mechanism if they feel threatened.



## 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

### Chessington Garden Centre

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# Viper Gecko



## Care & Advice Sheet

Inspiration for your Home & Garden



## Size & Housing

These geckos usually reach 7–9cm in length. They are best housed in wooden vivariums as they retain heat well but glass terrariums can also be used. We recommend:

45 x 45 x 30cm / 18 x 18 x 12" – Minimum for 3–4 Adults



## Substrate & Furnishings

Young geckos should be kept on reptile carpet, kitchen towel or newspaper as they are prone to impaction. Adults can live on loose substrate such as reptile sands. Live or artificial plants should be used with plenty of rocks, logs and bark. They are ground dwelling geckos but may climb low heights if given the chance. Spot pick the enclosure daily and full clean once or twice a month using a reptile specific disinfectant.

**Please Note – Not all live plants are reptile friendly.**

A minimum of three hides should be provided – one in the hot end, one in the cold end and a humid hide full of damp moss. They are likely to burrow and hide under bark and rocks rather than in large caves.

## Lighting & Temperature

Although nocturnal, viper geckos may bask under UVB at times. Provide UVB at 2, 5 or 10% to create a daytime cycle of 10–12 hours a day. This is best controlled by a timer. They need a basking area with a temperature around 32–35°C – this is best achieved by using a heat bulb with a guard, controlled by a thermostat at all times. Heat mats can be used but struggle to maintain the levels of heat in colder months. There should be a temperature gradient in the enclosure varying down to 24°C and the temperature can drop to 21°C.

## Food & Water

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

- Locusts
- Mealworms
- Small Crickets

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 humid hide should be misted to keep it damp.

## Handling

Due to the Viper geckos small size, handling should be kept to a minimum. If they feel threatened, Viper geckos will drop their tail, so always pick them up from underneath to help prevent you being seen as a predator.