

Peacock Day Gecko Care Sheet



Housing:

Most day geckos require a vertically oriented enclosure with many tall plants and bamboo to climb on. Smaller species should be housed in a minimum of a 10 gallon enclosure for a pair of day geckos. The larger species should be housed in 20 gallon or larger enclosures for pairs of day geckos. Individual animals and juveniles can be kept in smaller enclosures. It is also important to provide proper ventilation in the enclosure while keeping proper humidity. Unlike most other day geckos *Phelsuma barbouri* requires a horizontally oriented enclosure.

Decorations / Substrate:

Fine grade well-washed orchid bark may also be used as a top level substrate. Enclosures should be well planted with tall stiff leafed plants such as Sansevieria (Snake plant), Orchids, bromeliads, and other tropical plants. Both vertical and semi-horizontal bamboo stalks should be provided for climbing and basking. The semi-horizontal bamboo pieces should be placed near the fluorescent and incandescent lights for basking. Cork bark makes an excellent wall covering and also provides attachment points for epiphyte plants. It is also important to provide plenty of hiding places for day geckos which will help to reduce stress.

Temperature / Humidity:

Most species of day geckos require daytime temperatures of 81 to 89 degrees Fahrenheit (27 to 31 degrees Celsius) and a nighttime 10 degrees F. (5 degrees C.) temperature drop to around 70 to 80 degrees F (21 to 27 degrees C.). Most species of day geckos require a relative humidity of 50 to 85 percent that can be maintained by misting the enclosure several times a day. Plants and proper substrate are important in maintaining required humidity levels.

Lighting:

Adequate lighting is required for the day geckos and plants in the enclosure. Several full-spectrum fluorescent lights should be placed at the top of the enclosure. Reptile fluorescent lights that produce small amounts of UVA and UVB lights may be used. Screen is recommended under the fluorescent bulbs because most types of plastic and glass block a large percent of UV light. A small low-wattage (20 to 60 watt) incandescent or halogen basking light should also be provided on one side of the enclosure over specific basking areas so that the gecko can pick its preferred temperature. Lighting should be controlled by a timer and varied seasonally from 14 hours per day during the summer to 10 hours per day during the winter, along with a small temperature drop for three to four months in winter.

Food:

The main staple of a day geckos diet are insects which include crickets, waxworms, wingless fruitless, and flies. Most day geckos also eat fruits including papaya, mango, and fruit baby food. Phosphorus free calcium and vitamin supplements are very important in a day geckos diet and should be provided at every other feeding.