

# Leopard Gecko Pet for Beginners: A Comprehensive Guide to Care and Keeping

Leopard geckos are one of the most popular pet reptiles, and for good reason. They are docile, have striking patterns, and are relatively easy to care for. If you're thinking about getting a leopard gecko as a pet, this comprehensive guide will provide you with everything you need to know to get started.



## LEOPARD GECKO PET FOR BEGINNERS: A comprehensive leopard gecko care guide for beginners, pet and reptile lovers by Emma Wright

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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## Enclosure Setup

The first step in caring for a leopard gecko is to set up an appropriate enclosure. A 20-gallon tank is a good size for a single leopard gecko. The tank should have a secure lid to prevent the gecko from escaping. Inside the tank, you will need to provide the following:

- **Substrate:** Leopard geckos prefer loose substrate, such as paper towels, reptile carpet, or sand. Avoid using substrates that can be ingested, such as gravel or wood chips.
- **Hide boxes:** Leopard geckos are nocturnal and need places to hide during the day. Provide at least two hide boxes, one on the warm side of the tank and one on the cool side.
- **Basking spot:** Leopard geckos need a basking spot where they can warm up. The basking spot should be located on one end of the tank and should be between 90 and 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Cool spot:** Leopard geckos also need a cool spot where they can retreat to if they get too warm. The cool spot should be located on the opposite end of the tank from the basking spot and should be between 70 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

## Diet

Leopard geckos are insectivores, which means they eat insects. The best diet for a leopard gecko consists of a variety of live insects, such as crickets, mealworms, and dubia roaches. You can also offer your gecko occasional treats, such as pinkie mice or small lizards.

It is important to dust the insects with a calcium supplement before feeding them to your gecko. This will help to ensure that your gecko gets the calcium it needs to stay healthy.

## Handling

Leopard geckos are generally docile creatures, but they can be startled if they are not handled properly. When handling your gecko, be sure to

support it with both hands and avoid grabbing it by the tail.

If your gecko is reluctant to be handled, you can try offering it a treat. This will help it to associate handling with something positive.

## Health Considerations

Leopard geckos are generally hardy creatures, but they can be susceptible to a variety of health problems, including:

- **Metabolic bone disease:** This is a condition that occurs when a gecko does not get enough calcium. Symptoms of metabolic bone disease include soft bones, lethargy, and seizures.
- **Impaction:** This is a condition that occurs when a gecko ingests something that it cannot digest. Symptoms of impaction include lethargy, loss of appetite, and vomiting.
- **Respiratory infections:** These infections are caused by bacteria or viruses. Symptoms of a respiratory infection include sneezing, coughing, and difficulty breathing.

If you think your leopard gecko is sick, it is important to take it to a veterinarian as soon as possible.

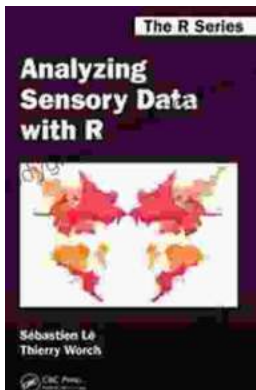
Leopard geckos are fascinating and rewarding pets. By following the care tips outlined in this guide, you can help your leopard gecko live a long and healthy life.

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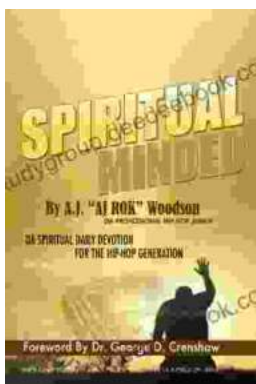
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