

# Leopard Geckos

Leopard geckos are nocturnal lizards found in desert environments in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and parts of India and have been popular pets in North America since the 1980s.

Despite being one of the most popular lizard pets, little is known about leopard geckos in the wild. Their population numbers are unknown because their unique dots and coloring makes perfect camouflage for their natural environments which makes them a challenge to find. They are excellent at hiding from predators and stay hidden during the day to avoid being seen (and to stay away from the heat). Another trick they use to protect themselves from predators is shedding their skin to prevent their scent from being discovered.

Another interesting feature is that their tails are used as an emergency fat and water supply. When confronted by a predator or if attacked, the leopard gecko will drop their tail to give them enough of a distraction to escape. The leopard gecko's tail will eventually grow back. Most geckos cannot blink or close their eyes (which is why many geckos rely on licking their eyes to keep them clean), but leopard geckos have eyelids so they can blink and close their eyes when sleeping.

Leopard geckos are the largest growing species of gecko with adults reaching a maximum length of 8-11 inches. Females are usually a little smaller than males with a length of 7-8 inches. Females can weigh 50-70 grams, while males usually weigh 60-80 grams.

Leopard geckos can live to be 20 years old or older if they are taken care of properly. It is important to make sure they have proper nutrition, a healthy habitat, and that they are monitored for health issues. There have been cases of leopard geckos living to be as old as 30, but while possible its usually rare for them to reach that age. Leopard geckos in the wild will have a much shorter lifespan due to predators, disease, and injuries which are normally avoided when kept as pets.

Leopard geckos make great pets! They are hardy, easy to maintain, require little space, and have long life spans which make them a perfect companion for individuals and families. They only eat insects, so their diet isn't complicated, and they are very docile and can be handled without worrying about aggression.

Since their natural environment consists of harsh condition including soaring temperatures and weeks without food or water, leopard geckos have adapted to survive where other animals cannot. This makes the leopard gecko extremely hardy is and why many people believe they are so easy to maintain and take care of pets. While they are hardy, they should still be properly cared for when in captivity.

