



Flying Gecko (*Ptychozoon kuhli*)

Geckos that Glide

Flying geckos are a unique gecko species. These geckos are primarily an arboreal, nocturnal species that use their highly specialized webbed tails and digits to glide or parachute among trees for distances up to 200 feet! They also have highly cryptic coloration that helps these geckos camouflage, or blend in with tree bark or rainforest mosses and lichens extremely well. These geckos are a nocturnal species with quite cryptic, and variable coloration and appearances. They may range in color from light to dark brown, grayish or grayish brown, tan, to yellowish or yellowish brown, oftentimes with darker markings on their dorsal surface, and highly adapted webbed toes and feet and an elaborate network of membranes surrounding their heads, necks, limbs, and tails. There are about eight (8) recognized flying gecko species in the genus *Ptychozoon*. However, *P. kuhli*, commonly known as the Flying Gecko, or sometimes Parachute Gecko, is the most commonly kept and imported species.

Taxonomy

Life: All living, physical, and animate entities

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum/Sub Phylum: Chordata/Vertebrata

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Suborder: Lacertilia

Infraorder: Gekkota

Family: Gekkonidae

Genus: *Ptychozoon*

Species: *Ptychozoon kuhli**

**Taxonomy subject to change and revision.*

Lifespan and Longevity

If provided the proper care, flying geckos can attain longevity of at least 5 to 10 years or potentially more in captivity.

Distribution and Habitat

Flying geckos are indigenous to moist and wet rainforests to tropical forests and woodlands of southern to southeastern Asia, including Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, and the Malaysian peninsula.

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Conservation Status

Not Evaluated for the IUCN Red List (NE) or otherwise Data Deficient (DD).

Experience Level Required

Novice/Beginner to Intermediate/Moderate.

Size

Flying geckos are fairly large geckos which can range in size from 4 to 8 inches as adults.

Housing and Enclosure

Housing must be sealed and escape proof, and the size of the enclosure recommended will depend on the age and size of the gecko. For hatchlings up to 6 months or so, a 5 gallon tall aquarium, terrarium, or similar enclosure is recommended. Once a gecko reaches or exceeds six months or so, a 10 to 20 gallon tall terrarium or enclosure should be used. Flying geckos are arboreal, and height is more important than floor space. Provide plenty of live or artificial plants, branches, cork bark, or other furnishings for ample climbing and hiding opportunities. Substrates that retain and hold humidity well are recommended, and naturalistic substrates can include sphagnum moss and fir shavings, natural moss, or similar substrates. To maintain humidity and hydration, daily or regular misting is necessary. They will drink the condensation from the enclosure's furnishings and walls, and a small water dish can also be provided, and must be kept clean, but will usually be seldom used.

Temperature, Lighting, and Humidity

Flying geckos are a primarily tropical species that does best at humidity levels between 60 and 80%. Ideal temperatures for flying geckos range from a gradient of 75 to 86 degrees F ambient temperature and an 85 to 90 degree F basking spot during daytime photoperiods of 12 to 14 hours. Nighttime temperatures can be allowed to drop slightly below this range using a 24 hour under tank heating pad or nighttime infrared spectrum form of lighting and heating. Spot clean the enclosure for urates, feces, or uneaten food at least twice per week. Be sure to periodically replace the substrate, clean, and disinfect the enclosure and its furnishings at minimum every 2 to 3 months. More specific lighting, heating, and humidity product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

Feeding, Diet, and Nutrition

Insectivorous; In the wild, flying geckos are insectivorous, and will eat a large array of insects and other small invertebrates. In captivity, feed flying geckos a variety of appropriately sized feeder insects such as crickets, roaches, mealworms, superworms, fruit fly cultures, or waxworms. Feeder insects should be gut-loaded in order to increase their optimal nutritional value. Flying geckos also require additional calcium and vitamin D3 supplementation 1 to 2 times weekly or as otherwise directed for optimal health and development. This is in order to prevent Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD) and other growth and nutritional deficiencies. Their overall feeding frequency will depend on the age, size, and overall health of your animal. Food can be offered by hand or in a small dish mounted off of the enclosure floor for arboreal animals. Use care as to not overfeed them, as obesity and other health related issues can become an issue. More specific dietary and supplementary product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

Handling

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Flying geckos are a fragile and delicate skinned species and can also be fast moving and skittish. Therefore, handling should be discouraged or be limited to periods whenever necessary. If handling is absolutely required or desired, always handle the animal gently and deliberately but do not drop or injure the animal. As with many geckos and other lizards, they can also drop their tails when frightened or handled roughly. Take care to not grab your gecko by its tail or it may detach if your gecko perceives you as a predator or a threat.

Also be sure to practice basic cleanliness and hygiene associated with proper husbandry after touching or handling any animals or animal enclosures to prevent the possibility of contracting salmonellosis or any other zoonotic pathogens

Contact

Authored by Eric Roscoe. For any additional questions, comments, and/or concerns regarding this animal, group of animals, or this care sheet, please email and contact the Madison Area Herpetological Society at info@madisonherps.org

Disclaimer: Note that the information provided in these, or any care sheets, are not intended to be all-exhaustive, and further research and care should always be sought and provided when it comes to any species one may prospectively be interested in. These care sheets are also not intended to serve as substitutes for professional veterinary medical care and husbandry should any animal require it. Always seek proper and professional veterinary care for any animal should the need arise, and be prepared ahead of time for any and all husbandry costs and expenses that may occur with any animal beyond the initial purchase. Any animal owned is ultimately a matter of personal/individual care and responsibility.

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