



Golden Gecko *Gekko badenii*

- Golden geckos are an arboreal species of gecko indigenous to the tropical rainforests of Vietnam (southeastern Asia).
- These geckos have large, well defined toe pads, lidless eyes, and a grayish to bluish gray ground color with a pale golden, yellowish, to brownish yellow wash.
- If provided the proper care, these hardy geckos can attain longevity of 5-10 years or more.

Size

Ranges from 5 to 8" as adults.

Housing

Golden geckos are arboreal geckos. Housing must be sealed and escape proof. Provide a 5-10 gallon tall terrarium or enclosure or secure plastic container with ventilation for hatchling and juvenile golden geckos. House single adults in 15-20 gallon tall glass or screen enclosure of similar size and dimensions (12" x 12" x 18"). These geckos can be maintained on newspaper, paper towel, peat moss, or coconut fiber. Provide ample live or artificial foliage, driftwood, rocks, or logs for ample basking, climbing, and hiding opportunities. Males are territorial, and should not be housed together, as they may fight. For moisture, mist at least twice daily and provide a small bowl or dish of fresh water 2-3 times per week. This species requires at least 60-80% humidity.

Ideal temperatures for golden geckos range from 75-85 degrees F ambient temperature and an 85-90 degree F basking spot. Nighttime temperatures can be allowed to drop to between 70-75 degrees F. Provide a daily photoperiod or light cycle of at least 10-12 hours.

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 2-3 months.

Feeding/Diet

In the wild, these geckos are insectivorous, and will eat a large array of insects and other small invertebrates. They will also eat some fruit matter as well.

In captivity, golden geckos will eagerly consume many insects such as crickets, silkworms, mealworms, and roaches no longer than the gecko's head. Feed these geckos 2-3 times weekly or every other day. Gutload feeder insects by feeding them quality diets, and dust them with calcium and vitamin D3 for added nutritional value. They will also consume a variety of fruits and other diets including commercially available crested gecko diets, mangos, papaya, bananas, and other fruits. Variety is most important. Offer food in a small dish or pan.

Handling

Golden geckos are delicate, fast moving, and skittish species of geckos. Therefore, handling should be limited to periods whenever necessary. With time and patient handling, these geckos can become docile enough to be handled. Handle any of these geckos 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****