



## *Pictus Gecko Paroedura pictus*

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- Pictus geckos are also referred to by other common names including Madagascar ground gecko, Ocelot gecko, and Panther gecko.
- Pictus geckos are nocturnal, and inhabit southern Madagascar off of Africa.
- They are relatively small, terrestrial geckos with a brown, reddish brown, to tan base color and dark edged banding with a white dorsal stripe present.
- If provided the proper care, pictus geckos can attain longevity of 10-12 years or more.

### **Size**

Adult pictus geckos will typically reach 4 to 6 inches in length.

### **Housing**

Housing must be sealed and escape proof. Provide a 10-15 gallon terrarium or enclosure. pictus geckos can be maintained on newspaper, paper towel, coconut fiber, peat moss, or non oily, chemical free bark chips. Calcium Sand is not recommended due to its particle size and potential to cause impaction. Provide a humid hide box such as a natural or artificial hide with damp substrate (such as sphagnum moss) underneath and artificial foliage, driftwood, rocks, or logs for ample basking and hiding opportunities. Pictus geckos do not climb well, and do not require much vertical space. For moisture, provide a small bowl or dish of fresh water 2-3 times per week and mist once to twice weekly.

Create a thermal gradient (or a warm side) in the cage/enclosure with an appropriate sized under tank heating pad, ceramic, or radiant heat emitter. Ideal temperatures for pictus geckos range from 70-75 degrees F on the cool side and as nighttime temperatures, and about 80-85 degrees F on the warm, basking side. Pictus geckos are primarily nocturnal and do not require overhead UVB lighting.

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, pictus geckos are primarily insectivorous, meaning they eat insects and other invertebrates.

In captivity, feed pictus geckos crickets, mealworms, superworms, roaches, and waxworms. Gut load these prey items by feeding them commercially available diets for added nutritional value. Pictus geckos may eat pinky mice as well, but feed them these sparingly, if at all. Feed them these insects in a bowl or dish every other day.

Provide calcium and vitamin D3 supplements in pictus gecko diets whenever possible.

### **Handling**

Pictus geckos are a smaller and more delicate species to handle, and thus any handling should be done so carefully. Handle your gecko gently and deliberately, but do not drop or injure the animal. Do not grab your gecko by its tail or it may detach if they perceive you as a predator or threat. Allow them to walk in between or from hand to hand.

\*\*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\*\*