



White Lined/Skunk Gecko *Gekko vittatus*

- These geckos range from the tropical to sub tropical rainforests and woodlands of Southeastern Asia, Indonesia, New Guinea, and the surrounding Solomon Islands.
- Another commonly used vernacular name for these geckos is “Skunk Gecko”.
- These arboreal geckos have noticeable toe pads, and a ground color of tan or light to dark brown with a pale whitish stripe converging from behind each eye forming a “V” shape at the nape, and grading into a single dorsal stripe along their dorsum. The tail typically has wide light and dark bands as well.
- If provided the proper care, White lined geckos can attain longevity of 5-10 years or more.

Size

Ranges from 8-10” as adults.

Housing

Housing must be sealed and escape proof. Provide a 10-15 gallon tall terrarium or enclosure for hatchling and juvenile Skunk geckos. House single adults in 20-30 gallon tall glass or screen enclosure that is about 18”X12”X18”. These geckos can be maintained on newspaper, paper towel, peat moss, cypress mulch, or coco fiber. Provide ample artificial foliage, driftwood, rocks, or logs for ample basking, climbing, and hiding opportunities. For moisture, mist at least twice daily and provide a small bowl or dish of fresh water 2-3 times per week.

Ideal temperatures for Tokay geckos range from 80-85 degrees F ambient temperature and an 82-85 degree F basking spot using an overhead lighting or heating element, undertank heating element, or ceramic het emitters. Provide a daily photoperiod or light cycle of at least 10-12 hours. These geckos are primarily nocturnal, and thus do not require UV lighting, although low levels of it can be beneficial.

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, skunk geckos are insectivorous, and will eat a large array of insects, but will sometimes take even smaller lizards or small rodents.

In captivity, skunk geckos are usually voracious feeders, and will eagerly consume many insects such as crickets, silkworms, mealworms, and roaches no longer than the gecko’s head. They will also take day old to week old pinkie mice, but feed these sparingly. 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. Offer food in a small dish or pan.

Handling

White lined, or skunk geckos can be handled gently and deliberately, and are less aggressive than their relatives in the same genus, the Tokay geckos (although they may still bite if they feel threatened). They are still active, flighty, and delicate skinned geckos, however. Handle any of these geckos gently and deliberately but do not drop or injure the animal. As with many geckos and other lizards, skunk geckos can drop their tails when frightened. 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****