Tokay Gecko *Gekko gecko*

- These geckos range from India, Nepal, Southeast Asia, and Indonesia. They are introduced in several other areas of the world.
- Named for their vocalizations, which sound like "gekk-gekk-gekk".
- Tokays are large arboreal geckos that can easily be identified by their grayish to bluish base color and numerous reddish to orange spots and flecks throughout their body.
- If provided the proper care, Tokays can attain longevity of 10-15 years or more.

Size

Ranges from 10-15" as adults.

Housing

Housing must be sealed and escape proof. Provide a 10-15 gallon tall terrarium or enclosure for hatchling and juvenile Tokays. 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, 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 85-90 degree F basking spot. 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, Tokays are insectivorous, and will eat a large array of insects, but will sometimes take even smaller lizards or small rodents.

In captivity, Tokays 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 Tokays 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

Tokays have held a reputation for being large and aggressive geckos. Most wild caught or unhandled Tokays are prone to biting and attempting to escape when handled. Captive bred and born Tokays may be at least somewhat more tolerant of handling, however. Handle any of these geckos gently and deliberately but do not drop or injure the animal. As with many geckos and other lizards, Tokays 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