

CARING FOR YOUR FAT-TAIL GECKO

Scientific Name: *Hemitheconyx caudicinctus*
Native to: Western African
Maximum Length: 7-10 inches
Life Span: 15-18 years



CHARACTERISTICS:

The Fat-tailed gecko is found in West Africa, from Senegal to Cameroon. Their habitat is dry and arid, although they will spend most of their time in a dark, humid hiding place. In captivity, it is important to provide these geckos with a source of humidity that mimics these conditions.

CARE TIPS:

Enclosure: A 10 gallon terrarium with a screen top is recommended for one Fat-Tail Gecko. If you are housing two or more together, a 20 gallon long terrarium is needed. The ideal group is all females or one male and one or two females. House extra males in separate terrariums to prevent fighting.

Substrate: Use a 1/2 play sand and 1/2 coconut fiber or potting soil mixture as a substrate.

Habitat: Decorate the Fat-Tail Gecko terrarium with non-toxic plants, branches, logs, cork bark, and caves. Include small hiding places for your gecko. Also include dampened sphagnum moss under the hiding spot to help aid healthy shedding and to keep them hydrated.

Temperature and Lighting: Temperature during the day should be kept around 80-82° F with a warm area of 85-90° F at one end of the enclosure. Night temperature can be as low as 70° F. Humidity level should be kept low outside of the hiding spot. Keep the hiding spot around 80° F. We recommend an under tank heater for controlling the cage temperature as these nocturnal geckos do not typically bask under a heat lamp. Fat-Tail Geckos need 10-12 hours of light per day. They are nocturnal, so they do not require UVB lighting.

Food and Water: Provide clean, fresh, chlorine-free or spring water in a shallow bowl that cannot be tipped over. Feed your Fat-Tail Gecko every two to three days.