



Golden Gecko



OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Gekko badenii*
- Origin: Southeast Asia
- Ease of Care: Intermediate
- Potential Adult Size: 7-8 inches for males; 5-6 inches for females
- Life Span: Up to 8 years for males; up to 20 years for females.
- Behaviour: Nocturnal
- Humidity: 60-80%
- Diet: Insectivore and Frugivore
- Handling: Experienced (only if necessary - not recommended due to delicate skin)

TOP TIPS



- ✓ A tall terrarium is the best option for this arboreal gecko.
- ✓ Allow some open spaces in the terrarium so that the gecko can jump from branch to branch.
- ✓ Try using an elevated feeding platform to offer food & water.
- ✓ Golden Geckos will also drink water droplets after the tank has been sprayed.
- ✓ Golden Geckos are skittish and have delicate skin; they are not a good species for handling.
- ✓ Golden Geckos can bite if stressed, so it is not the best species for new keepers.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED



- Housing: Terrarium
- Heating: Heat Bulb (Heat Mat if needed overnight)
- Lighting: Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit ShadeDweller Arboreal 2.4%
- Substrate: HabiStat Jungle Bio, Arcadia EarthMix
- Water: Feeding ledge, Water bowl

HOUSING



Use an arboreal terrarium such as the HabiStat Glass Terrarium 45x45x60cm (HGT4560) or 60x45x90cm (HGT6090) to provide the ideal forever home for a Golden Gecko.

ENVIRONMENT



Arboreal Terrarium Setup



Heating

Golden Geckos are nocturnal reptiles, but still require a suitable light and heat gradient in their terrarium based on their natural 24-hour period.

- Background Temp: 23°C (76°F)
- HOT Spot: 30-32°C (86-90°F)
- Night-Time Temp: 20°C-23°C (68°F-76°F)

Provide a warmer/hot area towards the top-end of the terrarium, using an overhead heat source to offer a heat gradient. Use an Arcadia Reflector Clamp Lamp with Ceramic Holder (RARTG75) with a HabiStat Heat Bulb (HBB100) running in conjunction with a HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (HTDW) to achieve this.

Dimming thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known

as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the Golden Gecko.

Maintain night-time temperatures using a HabiStat Heat Mat running through a HabiStat Mat Stat (HTMW1).

To aid with the humidity requirements of the species, use a HabiStat Humidifier overnight when the heat and UVB is off.

Check temperatures regularly, using a reliable dual thermometer and hygrometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

Lighting

Use the Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 2.4% (RARTP8SA) on top of the mesh of the terrarium; this will supply realistic UVB levels within the terrarium.

Ensure that it is fitted correctly and within the manufacturers recommend distances.

Substrate and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your terrarium, but we recommend the following as examples:

HabiStat Jungle Bio (HSJB10) or Arcadia EarthMix (RARE10). Add some HabiStat Sphagnum moss (HSMS250) into your chosen substrate to aid humidity.

Wood/branches/vines for climbing, hiding, and sleeping on.

Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the Golden Gecko to use as shelter.

DIET & WATER

Babies through to adults should be offered appropriately sized insects and fed during the evening/night when they are most active. Golden Geckos are also keen fruit eaters and nectar drinkers; offer them specially formulated Gecko Food once a week, like the Crested Gecko Diet food (HSCDM).

A source of fresh water must always be available; this is best provided in an arboreal feeding platform to maintain hydration. Misting the terrarium will also allow the Golden Gecko to drink droplets which form on plant leaves and décor.

An alternative would be a HabiStat Round Plastic Water Bowl (HWM) on the base of the terrarium.

SUPPLEMENTATION

Golden Geckos need additional supplementation to their diet to help them to flourish and maintain healthy and productive lives. We recommend using a calcium and multi-vitamin powder such as Arcadia Earth Pro-A (RAREP100) and Arcadia Earth Pro Calcium Mg (RAREPCM80) as per the product instructions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A Golden Gecko has the ability to drop its tail if it feels threatened or under attack. Once the Golden Gecko has dropped its tail it will grow back but will often look different.

When a Golden Gecko sheds, the process will begin by the gecko rubbing its face against an object to loosen the skin. The gecko will normally shed its skin in one piece and eat it all. It is worth checking the gecko's toes to ensure that all of the old skin has been shed; if any is left it will begin to constrict the blood supply to the toes and will eventually cause the gecko problems.

HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Golden Gecko healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Change old water for fresh water	Spot clean	Check vents on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely
Weekly	Disinfect water bowl or dish	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build up and to allow any dirty bedding to be removed	Wipe down glass and walls with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Take out old substrate and replace with new substrate	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling or feeding your Golden Gecko, their food, enclosure and any other equipment.



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