

African Fat- Tailed Gecko Care Sheet



Overview

- Scientific Name: *Hemitheconyx caudicinctus*
- Origin: West Africa
- Ease of Care: Intermediate
- Potential Adult Size: 9 inches
- Life Span: Upwards of 15 years
- Crepuscular/Nocturnal
- Diet: Carnivore
- Handling: Intermediate
- Humidity: 70%-80%
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TOP TIPS

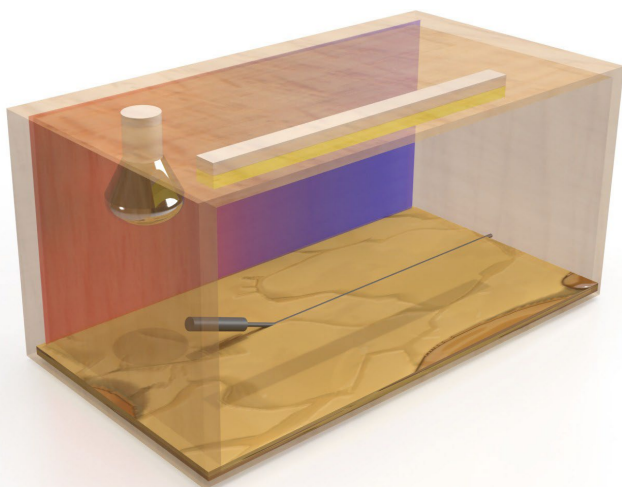
- ✓ Use a substrate that helps to maintain steady humidity levels
- ✓ Vary the food items offered to keep your African Fat-Tailed Gecko stimulated
- ✓ Use a sand scoop to make spot cleaning easier

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Housing: Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Bulb
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: Jungle Bio with Sphagnum Moss
- Water: Water bowl, Misting as needed

ENVIRONMENT

Terrestrial Vivarium Setup



HOUSING

The HabiStat Leopard Gecko Starter Kit (HSLGSK) contains a suitably sized 24x15x12" Tall Terrainium as well as the required heating and safety equipment. You will need to provide a substrate more appropriate for the species humidity requirements. Jungle Bio (HSJB10) is ideal for this.

This starter kit will be perfect until the Fat-Tailed Gecko reaches around 12 months and then you will need to change to a larger enclosure, the Wooden Vivarium 36 x 24 x 24" (DVF3624) for example.

Once in this larger enclosure, you will need to upgrade to more suitably sized heating and UV-B. The HabiStat Leopard Gecko Accessory Kit (HSLGAK) provides all the necessary light, heat, and safety elements for this larger enclosure in one handy kit. Just add the Jungle Bio (HSJB10) as a substrate choice.

Heating

African Fat-Tailed Geckos are considered a crepuscular/nocturnal species and require a suitable light and heat gradient in the enclosure to simulate a complete 24-hour period.

- Background Temp: 21-24°C (70-75°F).
- HOT Spot: 32-38°C (90-100°F)
- Night-Time Temp: 18-20°C (64-68°F)

Provide a warmer/hot area towards the one side of the enclosure, using an overhead heat source to offer a heat gradient. Use an Arcadia Pro Ceramic Lamp Holder & Bracket (RADCHP) with a Heat Bulb (HBB100) running through a High-Range Dimming Thermostat (HTDWHR).

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 Gecko.

Lighting

Fit the Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 6% (RARTP39F) on the inside roof of the vivarium, with the Arcadia Lamp Guard Pro (RALGP4) protecting the UV tube.

Ensure that it is fitted correctly and within the manufacturer's recommended distances.

DIET & WATER

Hatchlings through to adults should be offered appropriately sized feeders.

Make sure fresh water is always available for the African Fat-Tailed Gecko to drink via a bowl in the cooler end of the enclosure.

ADDITIONAL INFO

- African Fat-Tailed Geckos thrive with a steady humidity range.
- Keep an eye on your Hygrometer for humidity levels.
- African Fat-Tailed Geckos are a long-term commitment as they can live in an optimal captive environment for 15 years or more.

Substrates and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your enclosure, but we recommend the following as a guide:

- African Fat-Tailed Geckos can be housed on Jungle Bio (HSJB10) with some Sphagnum Moss (HSM1) added into the mix. This will aid the species humidity requirements.
- Wood/branches for climbing, hiding, and sleeping under.
- Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the Gecko to also sleep and hide under.
- Water bowl - a suitably sized water bowl must be provided in the cool-end of the enclosure.
- The use of a moist hide is also essential.

SUPPLEMENTATION

African Fat-Tailed Geckos need additional supplementation within their diet. A light dusting of a calcium and multi-vitamin powder such as Arcadia Earth Pro-A (RAREP100) and Arcadia Earth Pro Calcium Mg (RAREPCM80) will be ideal. Please follow the packaging instructions.

HEALTH & HYGIENE

We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your African Fat-Tailed 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 remove any dirty bedding	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 African Fat-Tailed Gecko, their food, enclosure and any other equipment.

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