

Habitat Needs

Housing

- African fat tail geckos should be housed in a 10 - 20 gallon aquarium or terrarium. They are nocturnal meaning they are active at night. So make sure you offer a nice cave or dark spot for hiding. They also like to have a humid hiding spot to retreat to when it comes time for shedding. You can use a small cave or other hiding spot and then add some moist moss inside.

Heat & Lighting

- It is very important you provide your African fat tail gecko with proper heat and lighting. African fat tail geckos do not require full spectrum UV lighting since they are nocturnal. But it is okay to offer them a lower UV output light.
- The size of your cage will determine what wattage your heat light should be. You want the cage to have an overall temperature of about 85 degrees and a basking area of 90 degrees. A red heat light or black night heat light will work great because you can leave them on all the time. As for the basking area, you will want to use a white spot light. Keep the day light on for about 12 hours per day. Make sure the light fixture you are using for your heat light is rated for the wattage of the bulb.

Substrate/Bedding

- There are many different types of reptile bedding out there. So which ones are right for African fat tail geckos? For babies, it is best to keep them on reptile carpet until they are a few months old, then you can switch them over to digestible calcium sand or crushed walnut shell.

Health

- When picking out your African fat tail gecko, look for one that has a large thick tail, clear eyes, and is alert when you pick it up. A gecko that is skinny and lethargic could be sick. Always take your African fat tail gecko to the vet for a check-up. They can carry worms and parasites that show no signs of illness but may still need to be treated. If handled aggressively African fat tail geckos can lose their tail. If this happens the tail will heal and grow back, but this can be very stressful on the gecko. Always wash your hands after handling any pet reptile.

Nutrition

Staple Diet

- African fat geckos eat insects. Crickets and mealworms make up a great diet. You can also feed waxworms but they are high in fat, so as a treat would be fine. When it is time to feed, you want to offer babies pinhead to small size crickets. Most babies will eat around 6 -12 crickets every day for about the first year. Once they reach adulthood, you will want to feed around 6 -12 medium to large size crickets every other day.



- Vitamins and Calcium are supplements that are crucial to your African fat tail gecko's health. For babies, dust the crickets with powdered calcium supplement every day and dust the crickets with a powdered vitamin 3 times a week. For adults, dust the crickets 2 - 3 times a week with calcium and vitamins.

Water

- Always provide your African fat tail gecko with fresh water. Give babies a shallow water dish.

Extra Information

- Scientific Name: *Hemidactylus caudicinctus*
- Native to: Western Africa
- Temperament: Docile
- Average size: Up to 12"
- Life Expectancy: 10 - 15 years
- Climate: Semi arid and rocky
- Humidity: Low to moderate

