



## Leopard Sand Lizard Care Sheet

**Species Name:**

*Acanthodactylus pardalis*

**Adult Size:**

20-25cm

**Lifespan:**

10-15 Years

**Breeding Age:**

1-2 Years



*Acanthodactylus pardalis*, commonly known as the Leopard Sand Lizard, is a species of lacertid lizard native to North Africa. It is characterized by its distinctive leopard-like spots and fringed toes. This lizard inhabits arid and semi-arid regions, thriving in sandy and rocky environments. *Acanthodactylus pardalis* is diurnal, actively foraging during the day for insects and other small invertebrates. It is known for its agility and rapid movements.

## Housing:

**Enclosure:** Provide a spacious and well-ventilated enclosure with a secure lid. A glass or wooden terrarium around 2-3ft long.

**Substrate:** Use a substrate such as a 50/50 mix of sand and soil to mimic the lizard's natural environment. The substrate should be deep enough to allow for natural digging behaviour.

**Hide:** Include multiple hiding spots such as rocks or artificial caves to allow the Lizard to retreat and feel secure.

## Temperature and Lighting:

**Temperature Gradient:** Maintain a basking spot temperature of around 35-40°C on one side of the enclosure and a cooler side with temperatures around 29-35°C.

**Night-time Temperature:** Provide a night-time temperature drop to around 23-24°C to simulate natural temperature fluctuations.

**UVB Lighting:** Use a UVB light source of 10-12% to enable the synthesis of vitamin D3, essential for calcium metabolism. Provide a 12-hour day/night light cycle.

## Diet:

**Herbivorous Diet:** Feed your lizard a diet of insects such as locusts, crickets, mealworms, and roaches.

**Calcium Supplementation:** Dust food items with a calcium supplement containing vitamin D3 twice a week to ensure proper calcium absorption.

**Water:** Provide a shallow dish of fresh water for drinking. However, Leopard Sand Lizards obtain most of their water from their diet, and excessive water may lead to health issues.



## **Health and Handling:**

**Regular Check-ups:** Monitor your Lizard for signs of illness, including changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance. Seek veterinary attention if any concerns arise.

**Limited Handling:** While Leopard Sand Lizards may tolerate handling, they are generally not as social as some other reptiles. Minimize handling to reduce stress.

## **Enrichment:**

**Basking Opportunities:** Provide multiple basking spots at different heights with rocks or platforms for climbing.

**Burrowing Substrate:** Allow for burrowing behaviour by providing a deep substrate layer.

**Environmental Enrichment:** Use various objects like rocks, branches, and artificial plants to create a stimulating environment.

## **General Tips:**

**Quarantine:** Quarantine new additions to prevent the spread of potential diseases.

**Cleanliness:** Regularly clean and spot-clean the enclosure to maintain hygiene.

**Research:** Stay informed about the specific needs and behaviours of Leopard Sand Lizard to ensure their well-being.

Remember that individual Lizards may have unique preferences and adjustments to care may be needed based on their behaviour and health. Always consult with a reptile veterinarian for personalized advice.