



Petrie's Sand Gecko Care Sheet

Species name:

Stenodactylus petrii

Adult size:

10 cm

Lifespan:

6-8 years

Breeding age:

1 years



The *Stenodactylus petrii*, commonly known as the Egyptian sand gecko or Petrie's gecko, is a small, nocturnal reptile found in desert regions across North Africa and the Middle East. This gecko is well-adapted to sandy environments, with fringed toes that help it move across loose sand. It has a pale, sandy colouration for camouflage, and its large eyes are ideal for night time activity. The gecko feeds on small insects and other invertebrates. Known for its burrowing behaviour, it shelters during the day in the sand to avoid the heat, emerging at night to hunt.

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Housing:

Enclosure: Provide a secure enclosure with a recommended minimum size of 2ft for one gecko, and additional space if housing more than one gecko together. These geckos are better housed individually however a male can be kept with a female for breeding purposes.

Substrate: Use a substrate that mimics this gecko's natural environment and allows for burrowing such as sand.

Hides: Include at least two hiding spots—one on the warm side and one on the cool side—to make your gecko feel secure and allow it to thermoregulate. Half logs, caves, or commercially available hides work well.

Heating:

Maintain a temperature gradient within the enclosure. Provide a heat source, such as a heating pad or ceramic heat emitter on one side, to achieve a warm side.

Warm side temperature of around 30-32°C.

Cooler side around 22-25°C.

At night time the temperature can drop to no lower than 21°C.

Lighting:

Scorpion Tailed geckos will benefit from a 7% UVB bulb.

It is important however to provide a day-night cycle of 10-12 hours of light per day.

Feeding:

Diet: These geckos are insectivores. Feed them a diet consisting mainly of appropriately sized live insects such as crickets and locusts.

Dust the insects with a calcium supplement with D3 every two to three feedings.

Feeding Schedule: Feed juveniles daily and adults every 2-3 days. Offer a number of insects that they can consume in about 15-20 minutes.



Hydration:

Water Dish: Provide a shallow water dish with fresh water at all times. Ensure it is cleaned regularly to maintain hygiene.

Humid hide: A humid hide can be provided to aid with shedding and breeding. This is generally made using moist moss and positioned on the warm side of the enclosure.

Health and Maintenance:

Regular Handling: These animals are best not handled. They are very fast and stress very easily. Only Handle when necessary for example, when cleaning or vet trips.

Health checks: If you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance, seek professional advice promptly.

Cleanliness: Clean and disinfect the enclosure regularly, removing faeces and uneaten food promptly to maintain a healthy environment.

By following this care sheet, you can create a healthy and comfortable environment for your Gecko. Regular observation and interaction will help you understand your gecko's behaviour, and consulting with a reptile veterinarian is advisable for any concerns.

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