



## **Pictus Gecko Care Sheet**

**Species name:**

*Paroedura pictus*

**Adult size:**

4-6 Inch

**Lifespan:**

5-10 years

**Breeding age:**

1 years



The pictus gecko, also known as the Madagascan ground gecko, is a small, terrestrial species native to Madagascar. It typically grows to about 4 to 6 inches in length, with a robust body and distinct patterns of brown, beige, and black spots or stripes, which help it camouflage in its natural habitat. These geckos are nocturnal, spending the day hidden under rocks or in crevices. Known for being hardy and easy to care for, they are popular in the pet trade. In captivity, they thrive on a diet of insects and need a warm, humid environment to mimic their natural conditions.

***Visit Reptco.co.uk***



## **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 maintains humidity such as soil or bark.

**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 23-25°C.

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

## **Lighting:**

Pictus Geckos do not require UVB however they can benefit from it. A 6% shade dweller UV can be used at the owner's discretion.

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.