



# First Day Home – A Gecko Care Sheet



Get your gecko home & settled right away! Day geckos are not fond of changes – it makes them susceptible to stress which is a hazard to gecko health. A stressed day gecko acts frantic or appears dark in color. The best solution to stress is to get them established into their new home quickly and allow plenty of quiet time. These instructions apply to captive bred geckos from a known keeper only; wild caught geckos need a sixty-day quarantine before introducing it into a permanent home or into a reptile collection. Wild caught geckos need a fecal check by a veterinarian.

## Home Sweet Enclosure

Make sure the new enclosure is completely set up before you put your gecko inside. Do not move or re-arrange anything in the enclosure for several days once the gecko is inside. Make sure there are plenty of hiding places. This will allow the gecko to feel secure while it gets used to its new home.



move or re-arrange anything in hiding places. This will

Place the gecko, while it is still in its deli container, on the bottom of the prepared enclosure. Remove the deli cup's top slowly and gently. Allow the gecko to climb out of the deli container by itself. It will come out on its own once it feels comfortable. You may even leave the deli cup in the gecko's new home for a day or so: the deli cup has the gecko's scent and thus is familiar to it and is a source of comfort.

enclosure. Remove the deli cup. Do not force the gecko out. in the gecko's new home for

## Temperature & Humidity:

**Your new gecko may be dehydrated** from its travels so mist the enclosure right away. Keep the relative humidity and temperature in the ideal range so the gecko will feel comfortable in its new home. We keep our day geckos within a 60% humidity range by misting their enclosure twice daily. Most species of day geckos require daytime temperatures of 81° to 89° Fahrenheit and a nighttime temperature drop to around 70° to 80° F.



from its travels so mist the enclosure right away. Keep the relative humidity and temperature in the ideal range so the gecko will feel comfortable in its new home. We keep our day geckos within a 60% humidity range by misting their enclosure twice daily. Most species of day geckos require daytime temperatures of 81° to 89° Fahrenheit and a nighttime temperature drop to around 70° to 80° F.



## Lighting

Day geckos are usually shy for the first few days so the best way to tempt them out from hiding is with good lighting. Place high-quality fluorescent lights at the top of the enclosure. A small low-wattage incandescent or halogen basking light should also be provided on one side of the enclosure over specific basking areas so that the gecko can pick its preferred temperature.



best way to tempt them out from hiding is with good top of the enclosure. A small low-wattage incandescent side of the enclosure over specific basking areas so that

**Please note: Our day geckos were raised without UV lighting. If you prefer to use UV lighting, our day geckos will make the transition easily to UV lighting. To learn how to keep day geckos without UV lighting, refer to our book, Day Geckos In Captivity.**

## Food

**Don't try to feed your gecko the first day in its new home. The gecko will be too stressed from traveling and its new home to eat anything.**



Try introducing nectar/fruit on the second or third day. The next day try two crickets. If the crickets are uneaten after a few hours it is best to remove the crickets rather than let them stress the new gecko. Try feeding crickets again two days later. Most geckos start eating within three days in a new home and resume a normal eating schedule within a week.



the second or third day. The next day try two crickets. If the crickets are uneaten after a few hours it is best to remove the crickets rather than let them stress the new gecko. Try feeding crickets again two days later. Most geckos start eating within three days in a new home and resume a normal eating schedule within a week.

**Note: Our regular feeding schedule is: Monday, crickets; Wednesday, fruit baby food; Friday, crickets.**

**If you are having any difficulties, contact us quickly so we may assist you in your day gecko's acclimation.**

## Research

Phelsuma have some fairly stringent care requirements so learn all you can about your gecko through books, manuals, breeders, the Internet and any other source you can find. This sheet takes you through your geckos first days at home. Don't forget to do your homework and learn about the needs of your particular gecko.

Recommended reading and resources for specific species information:



'Day Geckos In Captivity' Leann and Greg Christenson, 2003  
'The General Care and Maintenance of Day Geckos' Sean McKeown 1993  
<http://forums.phelsumaweb.com>  
[www.daygecko.com](http://www.daygecko.com)

© Copyright Leann Christenson 2008