

# Giant Madagascan Day Gecko Care Sheet



## PROFILE

**Common Name:** Giant day gecko

**Latin Name:** *Phelsuma madagascariensis grandis*

**Native To:** Madagascar

**Size:** 10" – 12"

**Life Span:** 8-15 years

## HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

### **Environment:**

Humid tropical forest with plenty of foliage cover and branches.

### **Vivarium Size:**

We recommend a minimum size of 18x18x24" well ventilated glass terrarium for a single or pair of adult day geckos. Hatchlings and juveniles will be able to survive comfortably in a 12x12x18" terrarium.

### **Substrate:**

We recommend a number of different substrates including orchid bark, forest floor, forest bed, plantation soil and crested life. Giant day geckos would also benefit from a bioactive substrate that would support live plants. This method would increase enrichment and sustain humidity levels.

### **Food and Water:**

Giant day geckos are omnivores and in the wild will eat pollen, nectar, flower heads and a selection of live insects. Some have even been known to take smaller lizards, nestling birds and small mammals. The captive diet can mirror this closely. A selection of prepared foods (repashy

and pangea) and live insects, with the occasional pinkie mouse as a treat.

Giant day geckos may occasionally drink from bowls of water, but they much prefer to drink droplets from leaves and logs. Due to this we recommend regular misting of the vivarium. This will also help to raise the humidity, a vital requirement for Giant day geckos. The ideal humidity for your new pet is 50 – 80%. This can be measured using a hygrometer. If you have trouble keeping the humidity up in the vivarium a waterfall and mister can be added to help, as the constant flow of water will aid evaporation, as well as enticing the gecko to quench its thirst.

### **Heat/Light Requirements:**

Giant day geckos originate from tropical and sub-tropical forests in Madagascar. Hot during the day and cooler during the night, you will need to provide heat and UV lighting during the day.

Giant day geckos, as the name implies, are predominantly diurnal. Due to this UV lighting is essential, as it is for many other reptiles. Giant day geckos will benefit from a regular photo period of 12 – 14 hours per day.

Basking spot: 32 -35°C

Day: 27 - 30°C

Night: 23 - 26°C

**Please note that this care sheet is only for your basic husbandry knowledge and that it is always recommended that you do further reading.**

## FURTHER READING

[www.reptilesmagazine.com](http://www.reptilesmagazine.com)

### **Any Problems?**

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

Or email us at [shirley\\_reptiles@live.co.uk](mailto:shirley_reptiles@live.co.uk)

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