

# Dwarf Sand Gecko Care Sheet



## PROFILE

*Common Name:* Dwarf sand gecko, Algerian gecko

*Latin Name:* Tropiocolotes steudneri

*Native To:* North Africa

*Size:* 2 – 3"

*Life Span:* 8 – 10 years

## HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

### ***Environment:***

Sandy, rocky vivarium with numerous hiding places.

### ***Vivarium Size:***

This species of dwarf gecko can be kept in a small community. We recommend keeping in at least pairs. You should provide a minimum 12x10x10" for a pair with a 24x18x18" being suitable for up to 6 animals. Overhead heating is important for this species as they are diurnal and evolved in arid environments.

### ***Substrate:***

As their name implies, dwarf sand geckos will need a dry sandy substrate. We have found that desert substrates, such as biolife desert, are the best option as they contain larger particles, and the geckos can dig burrows and scrapes under rocks. Small piles of slate can be used as basking sites as well as hides with dried grasses, smaller stones and small branches used for enrichment and decoration.

### ***Food and Water:***

Dwarf sand geckos are insectivores, and their entire diet is made up of live insects. They should be gut loaded prior to feeding and appropriately sized. Even the largest dwarf sand gecko will only be 3" in length so all of their food must be smaller sized.

Water for dwarf sand geckos should be provided in a small bowl on the cooler side of the enclosure to reduce the relative humidity which should be maintained at 20-40%. Microclimates should be created for the benefit of the geckos as an area of increased humidity (for example a 'wet hide') will aid in shedding.

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

Dwarf sand geckos require high daytime temperatures and considerably cooler evening temperatures. Temperatures for these geckos can reach in excess of 40°C during the day, we recommend a hotspot of 35-40°C during the day with a gradient of 26-30°C. Evening temperatures can be allowed to drop as low as 15°C.

UV lighting for this species will need to be 10-12% or Ferguson zone 3. This will need to be provided 10-14 hours per day alongside the basking temperatures.

Below are the optimum temperatures for you dwarf sand gecko colony, all of which can be thermostatically controlled:

Day: 35-40°C

Night: 15-20°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.dwarfgeckos.com](http://www.dwarfgeckos.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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