



Intelligent, prehistoric geckos.

Affectionately called “chewies”, the chahoua gecko is the second largest known living gecko only to the leachianus gecko. Until recently, this gecko was in the genus Rhacodactylus. Other than their smaller size, their care is similar to leachianus and as such typically require an experienced hand.

Lifespan

Chahoua geckos are a long-lived species with an average lifespan of 15-20 years.

Size

Depending on the species, you can expect your chahoua to reach an adult length of 10 inches. Hatchlings are about 1-1.5 inches long, including the tail.

Natural History

These geckos are found exclusively in New Caledonia, a group of islands between Fiji and Australia. Nocturnal by nature, these geckos spend most of their day hiding inside tree hollows and hunting for food at night. Their earthy, moss toned skin allows them to blend in seamlessly into their environment.

Housing

Because of this gecko’s semi-arboreal nature, the height of the enclosure is more important than its length. If starting with a hatchling, a small enclosure is best to start off with and can be increased as the gecko grows larger. A single adult gecko can be housed in a minimum of 18x18x24 glass enclosure. Larger housing is always recommended when housing a breeding pair together, 18x18x36 or larger.

Lighting & Heating

To properly thermoregulate, reptiles must be provided with a healthy temperature gradient as is appropriate for each species. For chahouas, these nocturnal, tree dwelling lizards thrive in relatively warm, humid conditions.

The ideal ambient temperature of the enclosure should remain between 72-80F and can drop into the lower 70s at night, which is generally room temperature for most households. For most of the year you may find that you will not need to supply supplemental heating. Never allow the enclosure to exceed 85F for prolonged periods of time as this can be fatal to your gecko.

If your household tends to be cooler, especially during seasonal fluctuations, the use of low wattage ceramic heat emitter and/or nocturnal heat bulbs suspended over the cage are the best way to provide heat. The ideal humidity range for this species is between 60-70%. Measure temperatures and humidity closely with **digital** thermometers and hygrometers.

Although this species is nocturnal, new studies have shown that chahouas benefit greatly from 1-2 hours of UVB exposure daily. Exposure to appropriate wavelengths of UV can provide a day/night cycle for

your gecko and aid in the absorption and metabolism of calcium. Providing a low output UVB is recommended but is not necessary.

Substrates & Cage Décor

Chahouas are arboreal, tree dwelling lizards and as such require plenty of branches and plants to climb on and hide behind. Sterilized woods, cork bark rounds/tubes, artificial vines, and commercially available reptile décor work well for providing your gecko with climbing and hiding opportunities. Most artificial plants as well as live plants provide visual barriers and may boost humidity levels in the enclosure.

A wide range of substrates are available for chahouas. For a more natural look, your gecko will thrive in a substrate that best mimics its natural habitat. Cypress mulch, orchid bark chips, coco bedding or a mixture can be used. Moistened paper towels may be used for baby geckos.



Keep a shallow water dish at the bottom of the enclosure and mist the enclosure twice a day. Proper humidity is important for keeping your gecko hydrated and will help your gecko shed properly. Low humidity can lead to health problems, such as retained shed or chronic dehydration.

Diet & Nutrition

Chahouas consume both insects and nectar. Your gecko can be offered gutloaded, dusted insects occasionally (up to 1-2 times a week), which include appropriately sized crickets and dubia roaches. Superworms, butterworms and waxworms may be offered as a treat. Never take insects from the wild, as they may contain pesticides or parasites that can harm your gecko.

Fortunately, plenty of commercially prepared diets specifically formulated for chahouas are available and provide your gecko with everything that it needs, and in some cases removes the need to feed insects at all. Brands like Repashy and Pangea make powders that need only be mixed with water and placed in an accessible dish in your gecko's enclosure 2-3 times a week.

Dusting your insects with a high quality calcium powder and multivitamin is one way to provide your gecko with all of the vitamins and nutrients they need. However, if you are feeding a commercially prepared formula as described previously, the use for additional supplementation is not needed. A chahouas' diet should consist of 20% insects and 80% fruit/nectar.

Handling & Temperament

This is a species best admired, but comparable to other species, is handeable if you put in the time and effort when they are young. It is best not to handle your gecko until it has acclimated in your home for a minimum of 2 weeks.