

Tokay Gecko



Common Name: Tokay Gecko **Scientific Name:** *Gekko gecko*

Native to: Southeast Asia

Size: About 12 inches.

Life span: Tokay Geckos can live to be 10 years old. Some have been reported as living as long as 20 years.

General appearance: Tokay Geckos are pale gray with bluish spots when they have been in the dark, darkening to dark gray with reddish spots in the light. Tokay Geckos have lamellae on the pads of their toes which enable them to walk on vertical surfaces, including ceilings and even glass. The pads are not sticky, but are actually microscopic filaments which find equally tiny imperfections in surface areas.

Housing requirements

Enclosure: 20 Gallon Tall tank, with plenty of vines, driftwood, and things for them to climb on, plus cork bark "hides". You will rarely see your tokay in the daytime. as they are nocturnal, and "hide" during the day.

Temperature: A temperature gradient of 75-90/days, 70-80/nights.

Heat/Light: Tokay's need a day and night cycle, but do not need any UVB producing bulb. If a light bulb is used for night time heating, a red basking bulb heat source must be used.

When providing heat, do **NOT** use hot rocks. Hot rocks are notoriously unpredictable and can cause serious burn injuries to your animal. It is recommended to routinely check the temperatures of the enclosure with thermometers.

Substrate: Because the Tokay is rarely is on the ground, you can use anything from paper towels, newspaper, humus, or even sterilized play sand. Don't use cypress mulch, it's a bit too rough for a tokay's delicate skin.

Environment: A plethora of items for your Tokay to run, jump and explore on.

Diet: Mealworms, crickets, pinky mice, and wax worms. Feed several insects nightly, and dust the insects using ReptiCal. Feed one pinky mouse every 15 - 20 days

Mist your Tokay's habitat two to three times a day with a squirt water bottle, making sure to get the glass wet, as well as the plants, and the ground to keep the humidity level at or close to 70%. Tokay's get their water by licking the dew off of plants, themselves and whatever they are climbing on. It is especially important to mist in the evenings, because that is when they are active. You can also put ice cubes on the enclosure screen top, to provide extra humidity for them.

Maintenance: Tokay's are solitary and it is not recommended that you house more than one per enclosure. It is important that you **DO NOT HOUSE MALES TOGETHER** under any circumstance! Tokay's are very territorial.

Tokay's are not beginner geckos by any means. They can inflict a very serious and painful bite, and will often times not let go until they are good and ready, even if you run cold water over them. Tokay's will most likely never become tame. In very rare instances they can get slightly more use to being around people and less panicky, but the rule of thumb is that they are to look at but not touch.

Tokay's also make very loud vocalizations. This is used to find a mate, but they also will "growl" and make a hacking noise if they are startled or irritated by any intrusion.

Remember that in many places it is illegal to take wildlife out of the wild without the proper permits from local, state, or federal authorities. Please do not release any captive reptiles or amphibians into the wild as this will disrupt the natural order of our environment.

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