

# LEOPARD GECKO ADVANCED HUSBANDRY

## GLOSSARY

**Ambient** – Air temperature.

**Basking spot/hot spot** – This is directly under your overhead heat source. This spot should be about 95 F/ 35 C.

**CHE** – Ceramic heat emitter. These produce long IRC wave lengths that only heat the surface of your leopard gecko and the air around it. Not recommended as a sole heat source.

**Circadian Rhythm** - The natural regulation of the sleep-wake cycle.

**Clamp lamp** – A clamp attached the dome fixture that can be attached to the side of an enclosure.

**Cohab/Cohabitation** – When two or more leopard geckos are housed together. Not recommended for beginner keepers and can only be females.

**Cool Side** –The coldest temperature zone in your enclosure. This zone should be in the mid-70s F/23 C.

**CUC**- Stands for clean up crew. A variety of insects used in bioactive enclosures to clean up gecko and plant waste.

**D3** – A vital vitamin for leopard geckos. Without d3 leopard geckos cannot use calcium. Lack of D3 leads to MBD. Can be supplied through proper UVB usage and supplementation.

**DHP** – Deep heat projector. These produce short IRA and IRB wave lengths that penetrate deep into the leopard gecko allowing for optimal thermo regulation and digestion. Emits no light.

**Dimming dome**- A dome that has a dimming switched already attached to the power cord. These are a great temporary solution to control the intensity of your overhead heat while you save up for a dimming thermostat.

**Dimming switch**- A household dimming switch commonly used on lamps. Can be temporarily used on an existing dome to control over head heat intensity until a dimming thermostat is purchased.

**Dimming thermostat** – A piece of equipment with an attached probe that automatically dims the strength of your overhead heat source to the safe temperature you preset on the device.

**Dome** – The fixture that holds the heat bulb for your enclosure.

**Dusting** – The act of covering the insects you are feeding your leopard gecko in a powder supplement.

**Egg bound** – Most unbred female leopard geckos will reabsorb any eggs produced but if reabsorption or laying doesn't occur the eggs can be stuck and unable to pass. Veterinary intervention may be necessary.

**Goobies** – Under arm 'bubbles' that form in over weight leopard geckos. Can also be caused by over supplementation.

**Gradient** – The difference in the temperature zones, warm, middle and cool. These allow your leopard gecko to choose where he needs to be to be comfortable.

**Gut loading**- Feeding the insects you intend to feed your leopard gecko at least 24 hours before they are to be ingested to ensure the maximum amount of nutrients are transferred to your leopard gecko during digestion.

**Halogen Flood** – Light emitting heat sources. They produce the correct short-wave lengths for optimal thermoregulation and digestion but also produce light. Emits IRA and IRB wave lengths. The closest thing to the sun we can replicate in captivity.

**Hemipenes** – Male reproductive organs located under and on either side of the cloacal opening. They are not visible unless exposed.

**Humid hide** – A store bought or homemade enclosed hide that has a damp substrate creating a high humidity area to aid in shedding

**Impaction** – The result of improper digestion, usually from improper husbandry, leading to the intestines becoming impacted and feces is unable to pass. Usually requires a vet visit, may require surgery.

**IRA** – Short for infrared A. Has short wave lengths that can deeply penetrate the leopard gecko for optimal digestion and thermo regulation

**IRB** - Short for infrared B. Also had short wave lengths that can deeply penetrate the leopard gecko for optimal digestion and thermo regulation.

**IRC** – Short for infrared C. Has long wave lengths that only supply a surface warmth that is improper for thermo regulation and proper digestion.

**MBD** – Short for metabolic bone disease. The result of a calcium/phosphorous imbalance causing the skeletal structure to weaken. Can be avoided with proper UVB usage and supplementation. Irreversible but progression can be halted with proper treatment.

**On/Off thermostat** – A piece of equipment that shuts off your heat source when it gets to a preset temperature, not suitable for overhead heat sources.

**Ovulating** – Occurs yearly in female leopard geckos during breeding season. Can lead to behavior and appetite changes.

**Probe** – A small piece of equipment attached to a thin cable that is plugged into a thermometer or thermostat to monitor the temperature of a basking spot or ambient temperatures,

**Prolapse** – When the male hemipenes (one or both) or the female reproductive tract is protruding outside of the body. Generally, occurs near the vent area.

**Pulse thermostat** – A piece of equipment that pulses with greater or less intensity depending on whether the temperature needs to increase or decrease. Not suitable for overhead heat sources.

**Thermometer** – A piece of equipment used in your leopard gecko's enclosure to monitor the temperature of the air. Digital is preferred to analog for accuracy.

**Thermostat** – A piece of equipment that provides a 'sliding' amount of electricity to the heat sources.

**UTH** – Under tank heater/ heat mat. These produce long IRC wave lengths that only heat the surface of your leopard gecko. Not recommended as a sole heat source.

**UVB** – Essential for natural vitamin d3 production, better sight, appetite and circadian rhythm.

**Vent** – Also called the cloaca. This is where fecal matter exits the body. As male leopard geckos mature, the round dots (pores) become more prominent and produce a waxy substance. Females also have less prominent pores.

**Vivarium/Terrarium/Enclosure/Tank** - All acceptable and common names for where we house our geckos

**Warm side** – The hotter side of your enclosure where your heat source and UVB source will be. This zone should be in the mid-80s F/ 30 C.