



Did you know...?

Amazing Animals at MDM: Leopard Gecko Facts

Leopard Geckos, *Eublepharis Macularius*, are amazing animals native to the arid, rocky deserts and grasslands of the Middle East. Our friend, Sami, can be found in the MDM amazing animal area.

Leopard Gecko General Facts

- The name *Eublepharis Macularius* means “good eyelid.” Leopard Geckos have eyelids unlike other arboreal geckos.
- These nocturnal hunters can blink and sleep with their eyes closed.
- They can see almost as well as cats!
- Leopard geckos are native to Afghanistan, northwestern India, Pakistan, Iran and Iraq. They prefer rocky deserts and grasslands.

Leopard Gecko Diet

- Leopard geckos eat other lizards, insects, spiders and scorpions
- These tough little desert dwellers eat scorpions! They’re unaffected by the scorpion’s poison.
- Leopard geckos “pee” solid uric acid crystals instead of liquid urine.

Leopard Gecko’s Tail

- A leopard gecko’s tail is used as a fat storage for lean times.
- Like many lizards, the leopard gecko has a tail that breaks off easily when grabbed by a predator.
- The tail breaks at a crack in the backbones (vertebra). The backbones and muscles are arranged so that they separate neatly and instantly. A muscle closes around the blood vessel in the tail at the point of the break. This prevents the gecko from losing a lot of blood.
- The predator is busy with the tail, the gecko gets away and a new tail will grow eventually.