herpy

GECKOS

Western Indian leopard gecko

Eublepharis fuscus

A stocky, ground-dwelling gecko from western India with dark spot bands across the back, velvety skin and movable eyelids. It is nocturnal, eats insects and needs higher humidity than its close relative *Eublepharis macularius*. Only a few husbandry experiences have been described for this species specifically, so much of the guidance is based on the relative.

Family: Eublepharidae Former name: *Eublepharis macularius fuscus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**18-25 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**22-28 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-21 °C**
Humidity	**60-75%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**6-8**
Incubation	**35-89 days** at 27-32 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	The enclosure dimensions are borrowed from *Eublepharis macularius*.
TEMPERATURE	In summer the hottest spot under the heat source should be around 35 °C, a warm hide 32-33 °C and the rest of the enclosure 22-28 °C, coolest at the opposite end.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	*Eublepharis fuscus* needs much higher humidity than *E. macularius*. Humidity should be 60-75%, up to 85% at night if possible. In winter the humidity may fall a little.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is active at dusk and at night, but light during the day regulates the daily rhythm and stimulates appetite.
FEEDING	The animal eats only insects. Give crickets, mealworms and giant mealworms, dubia roaches, silkworms and black soldier fly larvae in rotation. Waxworms and butterworms are fatty and are only a treat once a week.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is shy by day and active at dusk and at night. Let new animals settle in for two weeks before they are handled, and then accustom them to the hand with short sessions of around 5 minutes.
NATIVE RANGE	India.