herpy

GECKOS

Madagascar day gecko

Phelsuma madagascariensis

Phelsuma madagascariensis is a large, green day gecko from the east coast and north-east of Madagascar, with a red stripe from nostril to eye and adhesive lamellae under the toes that grip glass and bamboo. It is active by day, needs UVB and a warm basking spot, and is an animal for anyone who wants to see their geckos in full swing.

Family: Gekkonidae Former name: *Gekko madagascariensis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-30 °C**
Basking spot	**30-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**23-26 °C**
Humidity	**50-75%**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, fruit, nectar and complete diet**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-24 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**3-4**
Incubation	**47-82 days** at 25-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Few care records exist for *Phelsuma madagascariensis* itself, so the figures in the care and breeding sections are taken from the closely related and equally large *Phelsuma grandis*.
TEMPERATURE	The species requires a clear temperature gradient. The warmest spot, a branch directly under a heat bulb, should be about 30-35 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be about 50-75 % measured in the middle of the enclosure. It may rise at night and fall during the day. Mist the enclosure thoroughly morning and evening, so that plants and branches are covered in droplets.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is active by day and needs strong light and UVB. Use a UVB tube that can give a UV index of about 3-4 on the basking branch (Ferguson zone 3).
FEEDING	The species eats insects and other small arthropods and occasionally fruit and nectar.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is territorial and aggressive towards its own kind, especially the younger animals. Two males must never be kept together, because they fight until the loser is wounded or dead.
NATIVE RANGE	Madagascar.