



White-Lined Geckos

Gekko vittatus

INTERMEDIATE · 8–10 IN ADULT · 10–15 YR LIFESPAN · NOCTURNAL · INDONESIA & PACIFIC ISLANDS

A gecko you keep for the view, not for the lap. White-lined geckos come from the rainforests of Indonesia and the Pacific islands, where they live vertically: bamboo, tree trunks, the underside of leaves. They are fast, vocal and strong-willed, and this is not an animal that wants to sit in your palm. Give one a tall planted enclosure and it will reward you nightly. Push the handling and you will lose a tail.

AT A GLANCE	
Difficulty	Intermediate
Adult size	8–10 inches
Ambient temp	78–85 °F
Basking spot	85–90 °F
Night temp	72–76 °F
Humidity	60–80% (70–80% at night)
UVB	Low UVB beneficial
Diet & cadence	Insects and fruit, every 2 days
Lifespan	10–15 years



A display gecko, not a handling gecko: fast, vertical and active after dark. Ask for captive-bred stock at NARBC breeder tables.

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01

The Handling Reality

Handled patiently, a calm captive-bred adult will tolerate you. Plenty of white-lined geckos are not that animal. What you usually get is fast, flighty and loud: a gecko that runs first, jumps second and barks when cornered. They are delicate, and the tail comes off if you grab wrong. Handle for health checks and enclosure work, then leave them be. That is the honest reason this species sits at intermediate, and why it is a poor pick for anyone who wants a lizard to hold.

02

Vertical Housing

This gecko lives on vertical surfaces. A hatchling starts in 8×8×12 and an adult wants 24×18×36, but the number that matters is height, not floor space. Racks are not an option at any stage. Load the enclosure with cork rounds, bamboo and broad leaves so the gecko can climb, hide and sleep out of sight by day. **Never house two adults together.** Two males will fight until one is hurt, and a female kept with a male gets no rest from breeding pressure.

STAGE	MINIMUM	PREFERRED	NOTES
Hatchling	8×8×12	12×12×18	Nervous; heavy cover, minimal handling. Vertical from day one.
Juvenile	12×12×18	18×18×24	Often wild-caught: quarantine and deworm every new arrival.
Subadult	18×18×24	18×18×24	Growth stays steady on generous insect offerings. Keep it vertical.
Adult	18×18×24	24×18×36	Bamboo and cork structure; 70–80% humidity nightly. Rarely handled.

Habitat-OS life-stage guidance for White-Lined Geckos. Vertical space beats floor space at every stage; racks are not an option here.

03

Heat, Light, and the Night Drop

Run 78–85 °F ambient with a warm spot of 85–90 °F near the top, where the gecko actually lives. Let it fall to 72–76 °F at night; the drop is part of the routine. They are nocturnal, so a blazing basking lamp is wasted, but low UVB is beneficial and cheap insurance for calcium. Every heat source goes on a thermostat, no exceptions and no heat rocks. This species is less documented than crested or day geckos, so treat these numbers as keeper consensus, not gospel.

04

Humidity & Water

Hold humidity at 60–80%, and push it to 70–80% at night when the gecko is awake and drinking. A heavy evening misting plus a lighter morning one usually does it. They rarely touch a standing bowl, preferring to lick water off leaves and glass, so the spray is the real water dish. Keep a shallow bowl anyway. Pair the moisture with real airflow, because stagnant wet air is what turns a tropical setup into a respiratory problem.

05

Substrate and Structure

A mix of topsoil, coco fiber and leaf litter holds moisture and does most of the humidity work for you. Skip loose sand entirely. Above the floor is where the real furniture goes: cork tubes, bamboo poles set at angles, and enough live or fake plants that the gecko can cross the enclosure without ever being visible. Give at least two elevated hides, one warm and one cool. A white-lined gecko with nowhere to disappear stays stressed, and a stressed gecko stops eating.

06

Feeding

They eat every two days, and they eat like true omnivores. Gutloaded crickets, roaches and the occasional silkworm carry the protein, while a quality powdered fruit diet mixed thin in a shallow ledge cup covers the rest. Dust insects with calcium at most feedings and a vitamin supplement weekly. Feed after dark, when they are actually hunting, and pull the leftovers before the gecko settles in for the day. Loose crickets will chew on a sleeping gecko.

07

Health Red Flags

Wild-caught imports are still common. Assume parasites until a fecal screen says otherwise, and quarantine new arrivals away from the collection. Weight loss despite a good appetite, loose or bloody stool, sunken eyes, or tented skin point that way. Watch the toes: stuck shed rings a digit and costs it. Open-mouth breathing or wheezing in a damp setup is respiratory infection until proven otherwise. Both are reptile-vet visits, not wait-and-see.

Husbandry data: Habitat-OS species library. Structure follows the NARBC show handout series. Every animal is an individual — when in doubt, ask the breeder at the table or a reptile veterinarian.