

# Black Pine Animal Park

## Animal Facts

Breed: LEOPARD GECKO

Names / Sex / Age:

Herbie            Male            2

Previous Home: Private home, was fostered by good Samaritan who adopted the disfigured animal then felt unable to provide the healthcare needed.

Native to: Central Asia and the Middle East.

Size: 6 – 11 inches long

Life Expectancy: Late teens or longer.

Diet: Crickets, mealworms, grasshoppers, maybe some greens. At Black Pine crickets and mealworms primarily.

Facts:

- There are five subspecies of leopard gecko,
- Nocturnal
- Markings at birth change from stripes/bands to spots as the animal matures
- One of a few species of gecko that has eyelids; eyelids help provide clear eyesight in very sandy/dusty natural habitat
- Can lick their own eyes with their tongue to help keep eyes clear
- Small claws instead of toe pads, which other geckos have, prevents them from climbing smooth vertical surfaces, but helpful for digging for insects
- Can drop their tail when frightened or disturbed; will grow back within about 40 days but will be inferior to original tail in growth and size
- Fat reserved in tail for “lean” times

Personal History:

Herbie was adopted in early 2009. The owner at the time had rescued the animal from a private owner after noticing malformed limbs and great concern for the animal’s health given the conditions of housing. After a time the “foster” owner grew concerned about his ability to provide the care needed as well and consulted with a veterinarian. Ultimately all parties agreed Black Pine could provide a more stable and appropriate home for the young and growing gecko.