

## **How to go about keeping Geckos**

All native reptiles are "absolutely protected" under the Wildlife Act, and may only be held by persons who have Department of Conservation permission.

Geckos being "absolutely protected species" may not be taken from the wild, nor may they be traded for cash, only exchanged between persons with permits. If you wish to keep geckos, you will need to visit your local DOC office to apply for a permit. DoC will make sure that you have appropriate caging and husbandry skills, and a buddy to supply you with geckos, before they issue a permit - which will cost you a fee (not sure what it is at present)

In order to have access to information and support, it may be a good idea to become a member of the NZHS. Most of our members are breeders who may wish to "swap" animals between captive colonies, and this information is only available to our members.

All keepers have to keep records of who we exchange geckos with, as this is a legal requirement, and also we make sure that the new members have the skills/cages and assistance to help them look after these endangered species

If you would like to join, we would be pleased to assist you further. Our secretary sends out an information pack to help new members, our newsletter "MOKO" carries articles on care and topics of interest to keepers; and the books on husbandry are available at discounted prices to members.