

Care Guide

Crested Gecko

(rhacodactylus ciliatus)

Facts:

Average adult size: **5 to 8 inches long**
Average life span: **5 to 10 years with proper care**
Diet: **Omnivore**



This Gecko was thought to be extinct until 1994, when several relatively large, thriving populations were found on the islands of New Caledonia.

Will reach adult size in 9-12 months, under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your reptile grows.

Feeding & Nutrition:

Diet

- Commercial Crested Gecko food, which is a complete balanced diet. This powder can also be used to dust insects.
- As a treat provide a variety of insects, including crickets, mealworms and waxworms.
- Sweet baby foods, such as peach, banana, or apricot can be mixed with the Crested Gecko diet and offered as a treat.

Feeding

- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times.
- Feed commercial food every night; remove uneaten food in the morning.
- Insects should be given at night, 2-3 times weekly; remove uneaten insects in the morning.
- Sprinkle insects with calcium supplement.

Housing:

- **Size** - appropriate size glass or plastic habitat with secure cover. Height is more important than floor space.
- **Habitat** - provide multiple branches for climbing and shelter for hiding; live non-toxic plants are also recommended. Maintain greater than 50% humidity by misting as needed every day.
- **Substrate** - use a mulch-type such as coconut fiber, dampened sphagnum moss, or bark.
- **Temperature** – daytime between 75-80°; nighttime between 68-75°; recommend radiant heat. Use a low wattage heat lamp if necessary.
- **Lighting** - provide light 10-12 hours a day. An incandescent day bulb is needed for basking area if not using a ceramic heater or black incandescent bulb.
- **Keep only one adult male Crested Gecko per enclosure and do not house different reptile species together.**

Habitat Maintenance

- Thoroughly clean the habitat at least once a week: place Gecko in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all traces of bleach smell. Dry the tank and furnishings completely and add clean substrate.

Care:

Note: The information in this Care Guide is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

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Grooming & Hygiene

- Crested Geckos regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is at appropriate level to allow proper shedding. To facilitate shedding, bathe in a large container that allows the Crested Gecko to immerse its entire body or provide a shed box, which is essentially a hide box with sphagnum moss that will aid in the shedding process.
- Do not be surprised to see a Crested Gecko eating their shedding skin.

Health

- Active, alert, and interested in humans
- Clear eyes
- Body and tail are rounded, filled out
- Healthy skin
- Clear nose and vent
- Eats regularly

Normal Behavior

- Crested Geckos are nocturnal (active at night) and will spend most daylight hours hidden in their habitat.
- Exceptional leapers, they will jump from one perch to the next almost like Frogs.
- Will tolerate gentle handling; rough handling will stress your Gecko and may cause them to drop their tails, which will not re-grow.

Recommended Supplies:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Size Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Hide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing Décor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treats | <input type="checkbox"/> Calcium Supplement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin Supplement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moss | <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket Keeper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food/Water Dish | <input type="checkbox"/> Under Tank Heater |

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