

CRESTED GECKO

- Native to New Caledonia, Crested Geckos have a crest running down both sides of their bodies from their eyes down to their tails.
- Extremely hardy, easy to keep and handle, they come in a variety of colors and patterns.
- Have an average lifespan of 10-15 years and grow to be between 6 and 8 inches long from head to tail.
- Crested Geckos are arboreal, meaning they spend most of their time in a tree versus on the ground.

Diet

Crested Geckos feed on small insects and soft fruits in the wild. In captivity their diet is easily recreated by feeding crickets each day along with a small amount of fruit baby food or fresh, soft fruits. Crickets should be appropriate size, no larger than half the size of your crested's head. Baby crested geckos will eat about a teaspoon of baby food a day, with adults eating about a tablespoon.

Housing

Crested Geckos will need a tall tank because they are arboreal and will enjoy climbing to the highest places possible rather than roaming around the bottom of an enclosure. A 20 gallon high tank is suitable for an adult Crested Gecko. A small group of three or four may be housed together, however once males reach sexual maturity they will begin to fight.

Crested Geckos like a very humid environment with a humidity level between 65 and 75%. Any type of soil or bark substrate can be used for bedding, but it's a good idea to mix in some moss to help with humidity levels. A wide variety of plastic or silk plants, logs, and other decorations not only provide hiding and climbing areas for your gecko, but will also help hold humidity.

Handling & Care

Fresh water and food should be provided daily. Any uneaten fresh fruits, vegetables, or plants need to be removed within 24 hours of being offered to avoid having your gecko eat any spoiled foods. Geckos need to be misted daily because they typically will not drink from a water dish but instead will drink water droplets from plant leaves and decorations after being misted.

Wash your hands with anti-bacterial soap after handling any animal.

Health

Metabolic Bone Disease is common in captive reptiles but is easily prevented by dusting foods with a calcium supplement at least once a week. UVB lighting and vitamin D3 should be provided to ensure proper absorption of calcium.

Obesity can be common in crested geckos because of the addition of fruits and baby foods, which are high in sugar. Crested Geckos will eat more of the baby food simply because it tastes better, but it is burned off quickly and stored as fat so the gecko will become hungry again soon. Be sure to limit the amount of fruit each day to prevent obesity.



CRESTED GECKO CHECKLIST

- 20 Gallon Tank
- Feeding Dish
- Décor
- Crickets/Mealworms
- Calcium Vitamin D3 Supplement
- UVB Lighting
- Heat Source
- Substrate
- Thermometers (2)
- Hygrometer
- Small Transport Carrier
- Crested Gecko Book