

Crested Gecko

Care Sheet



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The delightful Crested Gecko hails from the vibrant forests of New Caledonia! This fascinating creature has developed amazing survival skills, like the ability to detach its tail when feeling threatened. With their incredible camouflage, they blend seamlessly into the treetops and surrounding foliage, making them almost invisible! To keep your Crested Gecko happy and thriving, it's essential to replicate their natural habitat as closely as possible, ensuring a consistent diet and environment. While it's best to avoid housing two males together, female companions of similar size can coexist harmoniously. This guide is here to support you in providing the best care for your charming Crested Gecko companion!

Temperature

Crested Geckos are wonderful reptiles, and as cold-blooded creatures, they thrive best in a warm environment! To keep them happy and healthy, creating a cozy basking spot in their enclosure is key. You can easily achieve this by placing a heat bulb at one end, while keeping the opposite end cooler for temperature regulation.

Don't forget to install a safety guard over the heat bulb to protect your geckos! For the perfect basking temperature, aim for a range of 26°C to 28°C, and using a thermometer to monitor this will make all the difference. With these simple steps, your Crested Geckos will flourish in their habitat!

Get to know

Getting to know your Crested Gecko is an exciting journey! It's essential to create a calm and safe atmosphere for your new friend, as you'll be their trusted protector. Remember, these delightful creatures tend to be shy and can easily get stressed. By learning how to recognise their signs of discomfort or unease, you'll help them feel more secure in your care. When you welcome your Crested Gecko into your home, allow them some time to acclimate to their new surroundings. Gradually introduce yourself and let your bond grow naturally. Instead of reaching out suddenly, offer your hand gently so they understand there's no threat. This thoughtful approach will help foster a sense of safety and trust. Enjoy the special moments as you both get to know each other better.

Enclosure

When setting up a home for your Crested Gecko, you'll want to choose a tall enclosure with great ventilation to keep fresh air flowing and minimise bacteria. Ensuring the doors are secure is key to keeping your little friend safe, so consider special locks designed for the vivarium's peace of mind, as well as the safety of your Gecko.

Selecting the right size is crucial for a happy and healthy pet. For an adult Crested Gecko, aim for a minimum of 45cm wide, 60cm tall, and 45cm deep—more height is fantastic since these little climbers love to explore! Don't forget to fill their space with plenty of enrichment. With great care and attention, your Crested Gecko will thrive and bring joy to your home!

LIFESPAN

15 to 20
years in
captivity

SIZE

8 Inches longs

TEMPERATURE

Hot end: 26 °C - 28 °C
Cold end: 20 °C - 24 °C

HUMIDITY

40% - 50%
With boosts up to
70%

Environment

Substrate: Crested Geckos thrive in a humid environment, so choosing the right substrate is essential! Coco fibre, or a delightful blend of soil mixed with moss and leaves, works wonders. Don't forget to mist their enclosure daily—it's a simple yet effective way to keep the humidity just right for your little companion!

Décor: Creating a captivating décor in your vivarium is essential for your cresties happiness! They thrive on climbing and jumping, so incorporating plenty of branches and vines is a must. opt for safe options like fruit tree or grapevine branches. Additionally, adding a variety of plants will not only create shaded retreats for them to hide in but also help with their camouflage. Your cresties will flourish in a thoughtfully designed space that encourages their natural behaviours!

Cleaning: Maintaining a clean vivarium is essential for your Crestie's health and happiness! Regular spot cleaning is a great habit to adopt, addressing waste as you see it. Don't forget to do a thorough deep clean at least once a month, utilising a reptile-safe disinfectant and refreshing the substrate. If you're feeling adventurous, consider setting up a bio-active enclosure to reduce the frequency of cleaning. And remember, washing your hands after cleaning is a smart practice to keep everyone safe - salmonella is something to consider!

Diet

Feeding: Crested geckos thrive on a delicious diet of mashed fruits and live invertebrates! To keep them happy and healthy, don't forget to sprinkle in some supplements for those essential vitamins and minerals. Steer clear of citrus fruits and bananas, as they can hinder calcium absorption. Adults should enjoy mashed fruit every 2-3 days, along with a tasty treat of invertebrates 1-2 times a week. Just remember to keep portions manageable to help maintain a healthy weight. Your cresties will appreciate your efforts in providing them with nutritious meals!

Water: Many geckos love to sip on delightful water droplets in their vivarium, but it's essential to always offer a bowl of clean, fresh water too! If they happen to make a mess, just swap it out quickly to keep them happy and healthy!



Overweight Crested Gecko

The Crested Gecko's weight

To assess a crested gecko's health, take a close look at its overall shape, tail, and limbs. A healthy gecko has a well-proportioned body, while an underweight gecko may show visible ribs and a flat belly. On the other hand, an overweight gecko might appear bloated, with a thick tail and folds of skin around its neck. Monitoring their condition helps ensure they're happy and thriving!



Health & Welfare

A vibrant, healthy crested gecko showcases bright, clear eyes, clean ears, and healthy skin free from any ulcerations or stuck shed. You'll notice their lively appetite and active behaviour, along with a clean vent. Furthermore, a well-conditioned gecko has a smooth body with no visible ribs or pelvic bones, demonstrating their strong climbing abilities.



Shedding

Crested Geckos shed their skin in large pieces occasionally, indicating they are growing. They shed more frequently when younger, but this shedding slows down as they reach their full size. You can tell when a Crested Gecko is about to shed because its skin will appear dull or ashy. During this time, it's best to avoid handling them. Ensure their enclosure is kept damp and humid, as the moisture helps facilitate easier shedding. If any shed skin remains attached to the gecko's body, do not pull it off. Instead, soak the Crested Gecko in a lukewarm bath to help soften the remaining skin, which will then fall off.

You might notice that you rarely see the gecko shedding or any shed skin left behind. This is because they often eat their shed skin to regain valuable nutrients and to keep their environment clean, as shedding can deplete their nutrient reserves.

Diseases and Concerns

Crested geckos can sometimes face health challenges. It's important to watch for any unusual signs. One common issue is Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD), a nutritional disorder that arises from calcium and vitamin D3 deficiencies. This can lead to weak or misshapen bones, along with lethargy and tremors. Another concern is floppy tail syndrome, which occurs when the gecko doesn't have enough climbing space. They may end up resting upside down on glass, causing their tail to bend and potentially become damaged. Constipation, or impaction, can also affect these lovely reptiles. A soothing lukewarm bath can often help, but if the problem persists, don't hesitate to reach out to a knowledgeable veterinarian.

To keep your Crested gecko happy and healthy, take some time to research any potential diseases and concerns. By monitoring their health daily and acting promptly when needed, you can ensure a long, vibrant life for your gecko. Your care and attention can truly make a positive impact!

Transport

When taking your animals out with you, you must ensure their travel box is safe for them. Ensure there is enough room for your Crested Gecko to sit comfortably, but not so much that they can be knocked around. If they are new to travel, then putting a cloth over their travel box so that there is darkness to help calm them. Make sure it is well ventilated, but make sure there's no escape. Heat is vital; bring a battery heat pack or a hot water bottle to help provide heat so they stay comfortable.

Crested Gecko

