



CRESTED GECKO

CARE GUIDE

THE NEW BEGINNING WAY

Crested Gecko Care Guide

Crested Geckos are fascinating reptiles known for their unique appearance and relatively easy care requirements. If you're considering adding one of these charming creatures to your home, this guide will help you understand how to care for them properly.

Understanding Crested Geckos

Crested Geckos (*Correlophus ciliatus*) are small, nocturnal lizards native to New Caledonia. They are known for their fringed crests that run from their eyes to their tails. These geckos are popular pets due to their docile nature and the variety of colors and patterns in which they come.

Habitat Setup

Creating a suitable environment is essential for the health and happiness of your Crested Gecko.

Enclosure

- **Size:** A 20-gallon tall terrarium is suitable for a single adult gecko. If housing multiple geckos, ensure the enclosure is larger.
- **Orientation:** Choose a vertical enclosure to accommodate their climbing habits.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure the tank has adequate ventilation to prevent mold and maintain air quality.

Substrate

- **Choice:** Use substrates like coconut fiber, moss, or reptile carpet to retain humidity and provide a soft surface.
- **Cleaning:** Spot clean regularly and change the substrate monthly.

Decor

- **Climbing Structures:** Include branches, vines, and cork bark to encourage climbing.
- **Hiding Spots:** Provide multiple hiding areas to help your gecko feel secure.
- **Plants:** Live or artificial plants can enhance the habitat's aesthetics and provide additional climbing options.

Environmental Conditions

Maintaining the correct environmental conditions is crucial for your gecko's well-being.

Temperature

- **Daytime:** Maintain temperatures between 72°F and 78°F (22°C to 26°C).

- **Nighttime:** Cooler temperatures around 65°F to 72°F (18°C to 22°C) are ideal.
- **Heating:** Use a low-wattage heat source if your home is particularly cool.

Humidity

- **Level:** Keep humidity between 60% and 80%.
- **Monitoring:** Use a hygrometer to track humidity levels.
- **Maintenance:** Mist the enclosure daily to maintain appropriate humidity.

Lighting

- **Light Cycle:** Provide a 12-hour light/dark cycle.
- **UVB Lighting:** While not strictly necessary, low-level UVB lighting can be beneficial.

Diet and Feeding

Crested Geckos have simple dietary needs, which contribute to their popularity as pets.

Diet

- **Commercial Diets:** Use high-quality commercial Crested Gecko diets that are specially formulated.
- **Insects:** Offer live insects like crickets or dubia roaches as occasional treats.
- **Fruits:** Occasionally provide mashed fruits like bananas or mangoes.

Feeding Schedule

- **Adults:** Feed every other day.
- **Juveniles:** Feed daily to support growth and development.

Supplements

- **Calcium and Vitamins:** Dust food with calcium and vitamin D3 supplements to ensure nutritional balance.

Health and Handling

Ensuring your Crested Gecko is healthy and well-adjusted is vital for a long, happy life.

Health Indicators

- **Appearance:** A healthy gecko should have clear eyes, smooth skin, and a well-rounded body.
- **Behavior:** Active and alert, especially during the evening and night.

Common Health Issues

- **Shedding Problems:** Ensure proper humidity and provide shedding aids if necessary.
- **Metabolic Bone Disease:** Prevented with proper calcium supplementation.

Handling Tips

- **Frequency:** Handle gently and infrequently to avoid stress.
- **Approach:** Move slowly and allow the gecko to climb onto your hand.

Crested Geckos are delightful pets that require thoughtful care and attention. By following this guide, you'll create a safe and enriching environment for your gecko to thrive.

