

Care & Information Sheet

Crested Gecko



Crested Geckos are an easy pet to take care of. The average size is 5 to 8 inches long. They are nocturnal, active during the night and sleep during the day. These animals are great jumpers so take care when handling them. Keep handling to a minimum as over handling geckos can cause them stress. Never grab them by their tails as they will detach their tails when feeling threatened and they cannot regenerate a lost tail. With proper care and nutrition they will live 5 to 10 years. Never house two or more male geckos or different species of reptiles together.

Habitat

- A 20 gallon high glass or plastic tank with a secure lid is recommended for one to three crested geckos (1 male, 2 females). Height is more important than ground space as they like to climb and jump.
- Provide multiple branches for climbing, hiding areas, and non-toxic plants and logs.
- Environment -- Provide no less than 50% humidity to promote proper shedding. Mist every evening.
- Temperature -- The daytime temperatures should range from 75°F to 85°F. Nighttime temperatures should range from 68°F to 75°F. Radiant heat should be used.
- Lighting – 10-12 hours of fluorescent light per day is required. An incandescent bulb can be used for the basking area during daylight hours if you are not using a ceramic heater.
- Thoroughly clean the tank at least once a week. Place geckos in a secure habitat, scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution, rinse thoroughly with water removing all smell of bleach. Dry the tank and furnishings and add clean substrate

Substrate

- Use bark, aspen shavings, potting soil (sterilized), pelleted paper or dampened sphagnum moss.

Food & Water

- Feed commercial crested gecko food or one teaspoon of baby food (bananas, peaches, or apricots) every evening.
- Feed gut loaded crickets, mealworms, or waxworms every 2 days in the evening.
- Remove any uneaten insects and food in the morning.
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water changed daily should be provided in a non tipping shallow bowl.

Grooming and Hygiene

- Geckos regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is appropriate to allow proper shedding; a shed box, which is essentially a hide box with damp sphagnum moss, is a good idea as this will aid in the shedding process.

Supplies

Tank with Lid	Shallow Food & Water Dish	Non Toxic Plants & Branches
Substrate	Vitamin & Mineral Supplement	Hiding Box or Log
Misting Bottle	Fluorescent Light	Thermometer/Humidity Gauge
Baby Food & Crickets	Incandescent light or Under Tank Heater	Book about Geckos

Health

Because all crested geckos are potential carriers of infectious diseases, always wash your hands before and after handling your gecko and/or the habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases.

You should consult with an exotic animal veterinarian if you observe any of the following conditions.

- Metabolic Bone/Vitamin Deficiency – Swollen limbs and lethargy. If untreated, can lead to deformities and softened bones.
- Respiratory Disease - Labored breathing with bubbly secretions around mouth and nose. This can be caused from a too cold or too damp habitat. Ensure that the habitat is at the appropriate temperature and humidity.

For information regarding crested geckos and disease, contact Center for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets>

NOTE: The information contained in this document is for general reference only. Please consult a veterinarian for medical advice and concerns.

Sources: The complete Idiot's Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians by Liz Palika
Lizard Keeper's Handbook by Philippe De Vosjoli, et al.
Lizard Care from A-Z by Richard D. Bartlett