



Crested geckos are originally from New Caledonia (a group of islands between Fiji and Australia) in the south pacific. They are ideal reptile pets for beginners, with simple, easy to care for requirements.

Both male and female crested geckos reach a moderate size of 4 to 6 inches snout to vent length, and 8 to 12 inches total length, including the tail. Crested geckos are sexually mature when 15 to 18 months of age, and at a weight of approximately 1.24 ounces. They are crepuscular, which means they are most active at dawn and dusk.



## HOUSING

Crested geckos should be housed in a well-ventilated enclosure or tank that is at least 20-gallons in volume. Higher tanks are better, with a secure screen cover to prevent escape and keep them safe and secure. They are arboreal lizards, which means they need more height, or vertical space, than ground space. They are typically solitary animals and usually kept alone, but you can keep one male and a couple female crested geckos together. Male crested geckos may fight each other, particularly when in the company of females, and should not be kept together.

A substrate of sphagnum moss and soil on the bottom of the habitat is ideal. Add branches and other décor to provide climbing and hiding places, including live plants and dried tree branches. Crested geckos do well with humidity between 60% to 80%. Mist the habitat daily to help maintain humidity levels. Be sure to clean out waste weekly and change the substrate at least once a month.

## ENVIRONMENT

Crested geckos are cold blooded, which means that they cannot internally regulate their body temperatures and are dependent upon their environment to keep them at optimal living conditions. The ideal temperature for a crested gecko during the day ranges from 72°F to 78°F. You will need to create a temperature gradient in your gecko's habitat. For a warmer



basking area, place a heat lamp at one end of the tank, or at the top of a tall enclosure, to enable the gecko to appropriately regulate their body temperature by moving closer or away from the heat lamp. It is best to equip the habitat with two thermometers, one at opposite ends of the tank so the temperature can be monitored. Place a hygrometer in the habitat to monitor humidity levels. During the night, the basking light should be turned off, but a nighttime heat lamp or ceramic heat emitter should be used to maintain nighttime temperatures if temperatures in your classroom drop below 65°F. Maintain an ideal humidity between 60% and 80%.

## **CARE**

Crested geckos are omnivorous animals, their diet should contain both plant-based food and animal-based foods. Gut-loaded crickets are the most common meal, but it is important to provide a variety of live foods, including small mealworms, small roaches, and other small insects to ensure your gecko has a balanced diet. A good guideline is to feed 2 to 3 small crickets at a time every other day. It is recommended to dust food with a vitamin-mineral powder a few times a week also. Fruit such as blueberries, watermelon, pear, banana, strawberries and mango are ideal. There are several commercially prepared crested gecko foods on the market; check with your local pet store for recommendations. To provide water, a shallow, low-sided water bowl is ideal, along with misting. Always use dechlorinated water, as tap water contains chlorine or chloramine that can be harmful to your gecko.

### **Daily**

- Water bowl should be cleaned daily, refilling with dechlorinated water.
- Lightly mist the habitat at least twice during the day to maintain necessary humidity levels. Tank humidity should ideally stay between 60% and 80%.
- Check both thermometers to confirm the temperature is within the acceptable range of 72°F to 78°F.
- Spot clean the habitat, removing any debris or dead food.

### **Weekly**

Change the habitat's substrate monthly. You will need to remove your crested gecko, gently picking it up and placing it in a suitable container, always wear disposable gloves when cleaning habitat.

Thoroughly scrub the habitat with a mixture of 10% bleach and 90% hot water or distilled vinegar 50% and water 50%. Clean any décor with same solution. Rinse habitat two to three times with tap water to completely remove any cleaning residue. Wipe habitat and décor dry



pets in the  
classroom

# CARE SHEET

## Crested Gecko

with paper towels. Add new substrate and décor back to the habitat. Then replace the water dish and your crested gecko.

### HELPFUL LINKS

How to supplement calcium:

<https://www.zillarules.com/all-products/vitamins-supplements-care/calcium-supplement-spray>

Additional food sources:

[https://www.hikari.info/herptile/h\\_02.html](https://www.hikari.info/herptile/h_02.html)

<https://zoomed.com/crested-gecko-food/>

<https://zoomed.com/crested-gecko-food-variety-value-pack/>

<https://www.zillarules.com/all-products/food/gecko-gold-diet>

Lighting and Basking Heat Lamp:

<https://www.zillarules.com/all-products/lighting-heating/mini-halogen-bulbs>

Sterilized climbing branches:

[https://www.exo-terra.com/en/products/forest\\_branch.php](https://www.exo-terra.com/en/products/forest_branch.php)