



Crested Gecko Care Sheet

Species name:

Correlophus ciliatus

Adult size:

15-25cm

Lifespan:

15-20 Years

Breeding age:

18 Months Old



Crested geckos (*Correlophus ciliatus*) are arboreal reptiles native to the forests of New Caledonia, a group of islands in the southwest Pacific Ocean. They are primarily arboreal, spending much of their time in trees and bushes. In the wild, crested geckos feed on a varied diet of insects, nectar, and fruit. Their diet is supplemented by licking dew and water droplets from leaves. Crested geckos are primarily nocturnal, meaning they are most active during the night. In the wild, this behaviour helps them avoid predators and take advantage of cooler temperatures. They are known for their distinctive eyelashes and the crest that runs from their head down to the base of their tail. Crested geckos have become popular pets due to their relatively small size, unique appearance, and ease of care.

Housing:

Enclosure: A vertically oriented terrarium is ideal, as crested geckos are arboreal. An 18"x24"x18" terrarium is recommended for one or two adult geckos.

Substrate: Use a substrate that retains moisture well, such as coconut coir or orchid bark. Ensure that the substrate is deep enough for burrowing and provides humidity.

Temperature:

Maintain a temperature gradient within the enclosure. Provide a heat source, such as a heating pad or ceramic heat emitter on one side, to achieve a warm side.

Warm side temperature of around 28-29°C

Cooler side around 21-24°C

Night-time temperature: 18-22°C

Lighting:

Crested geckos do not require UVB lighting however there are studies that indicate it has benefits towards their health and well-being. A shade dwelling UVB light can therefore be used at the owner's discretion.

They will also require a day/night cycle. It is recommended they are provided with around 14 hours of light during the summer and down to 10 hours in the winter.

Feeding:

Diet: Feed a well-balanced diet consisting of commercial crested gecko diet, supplemented with live insects like crickets and small mealworms. Offer fruit puree or mashed fruit occasionally.

Feeding Schedule: Feed every other day for adults and daily for juveniles. Dust insects with a calcium supplement at least twice a week.



Hydration:

Water Bowl: Provide a shallow water dish for drinking. Mist the enclosure daily to maintain humidity levels and provide water droplets for the gecko to lick.

Handling and Enrichment:

Gentle Handling: Crested geckos are generally docile but can be jumpy. Handle them gently and infrequently to minimize stress.

Enrichment: Provide climbing opportunities and branches. Artificial plants and hiding spots can help create a more stimulating environment.

Health Care:

Health Checks: Regularly observe your crested gecko to see if you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance. If something does not seem right seek professional advice promptly.

Hygiene: Keep the enclosure clean, removing waste and uneaten food promptly.

Quarantine: Quarantine new geckos before introducing them to existing ones to prevent the spread of disease.

Crested geckos make fascinating and low-maintenance pets when provided with the right care. Always do thorough research and consult with a veterinarian for specific advice based on your gecko's individual needs.