



Gargoyle Gecko Care Sheet

Species Name:

Rhacodactylus auriculatus

Adult size:

15-20cm

Lifespan:

15-20 Years

Breeding age:

16 Months



Gargoyle geckos (*Rhacodactylus auriculatus*), are native to rainforest areas within New Caledonia. They are charming and unique reptiles that make excellent pets. They are known for their distinctive appearance, which includes a bumpy texture on their skin and the ability to flare out their scales when threatened. Proper care is essential for their well-being, and this care sheet is designed to guide you in providing the best environment for your Gargoyle Gecko.

Housing:

Enclosure: A glass or plastic terrarium with dimensions of at least 18"x12"x12" is suitable for one adult Gargoyle Gecko.

Substrate: Coconut coir, cypress mulch, or a similar substrate that retains humidity is ideal. Ensure it is deep enough for burrowing.

Hiding spots: Provide multiple hiding spots with artificial or live plants, cork bark, or hollow logs. Gargoyle geckos appreciate vertical hiding spaces as well.

Temperature:

Maintain a temperature gradient between 22-27°C during the day and no lower than 18°C at night.

Lighting:

Leopard geckos do not require UVB lighting however there is some evidence to show it is beneficial to their wellbeing so can be used at the owner's discretion. It is important to provide a day-night cycle of 10-12 hours of light per day.

Humidity:

Gargoyle geckos thrive in a high-humidity environment. Maintain humidity levels between 60-80%. This can be achieved by misting the enclosure twice daily and using a hygrometer to monitor levels.

Diet:

Gargoyle geckos are omnivores. Feed a diet consisting of commercially available crested gecko diet, fruit purees, and insect prey such as crickets and roaches.

Offer food every other day for adults and daily for juveniles. Dust insects with calcium and vitamin supplements twice a week.



Handling:

Gargoyle geckos can be handled but are generally more fragile than larger reptiles. Handle them gently and infrequently, allowing them time to adjust to their new environment before regular handling.

Health Care:

Regularly check for signs of shedding problems, retained shed, or any abnormalities.

Monitor for signs of illness such as lethargy, loss of appetite, or changes in faeces.

If you notice any health concerns, consult with a reptile veterinarian.

General Tips:

Clean the enclosure regularly to prevent bacterial and fungal growth.

Provide fresh water in a shallow dish for drinking and soaking.

Quarantine any new geckos before introducing them to an existing collection.

Remember, the key to a healthy and happy Gargoyle Gecko is providing a well-maintained and enriched environment. Regular observation and attention to their needs will ensure a rewarding experience as a reptile owner.