



Knob-Tailed Gecko Care Sheet

Species name:

Nephurus vertebralis

Adult size:

10 cm+

Lifespan:

6-8 years

Breeding age:

2-3 years



The knob-tailed gecko (genus *Nephurus*) is a distinctive lizard native to Australia. Known for its unique knob-like tail, which it uses for fat storage, this gecko thrives in arid environments. Its nocturnal habits and camouflage abilities help it avoid predators. Knob-tailed geckos have large, lidless eyes, enabling excellent night vision. They primarily feed on insects and small invertebrates. With a robust and stocky body, they exhibit various patterns and colours, aiding in their concealment among rocks and sand. Their breeding involves laying eggs in sandy burrows, where temperature plays a crucial role in determining the sex of the hatchlings.

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Housing:

Enclosure: Provide a secure enclosure with a recommended minimum size of 24"x18"x18" for one gecko, and additional space if housing more than one gecko together. Knob-Tailed geckos are better housed individually however a male can be kept with a female for breeding purposes. A smaller vivarium is suitable for a juvenile, but they will require a larger space as they grow.

Substrate: Use a substrate that allows for burrowing, such reptile sand.

Hides: Include at least two hiding spots—one on the warm side and one on the cool side—to make your gecko feel secure and allow it to thermoregulate. Half logs, caves, or commercially available hides work well.

Heating:

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 31-33°C (88-92°F)

Cooler side around 24-27°C (75-80°F).

Lighting:

Knob Tailed 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 however to provide a day-night cycle of 10-12 hours of light per day.

Feeding:

Diet: Knob geckos are insectivores. Feed them a diet consisting mainly of appropriately sized live insects such as crickets and locusts.

Dust the insects with a calcium supplement with D3 every two to three feedings.

Feeding Schedule: Feed juveniles daily and adults every 2-3 days. Offer a number of insects that they can consume in about 15-20 minutes.



Hydration:

Water Dish: Provide a shallow water dish with fresh water at all times. Ensure it is cleaned regularly to maintain hygiene.

Humid hide: A humid hide can be provided to aid with shedding and breeding. This is generally made using moist moss and positioned on the warm side of the enclosure.

Health and Maintenance:

Regular Handling: Handle your gecko regularly to promote socialisation. Be gentle and avoid grabbing the tail, as they can drop it as a defence mechanism.

Health checks: If you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance, seek professional advice promptly.

Cleanliness: Clean and disinfect the enclosure regularly, removing faeces and uneaten food promptly to maintain a healthy environment.

By following this care sheet, you can create a healthy and comfortable environment for your Knob-Tailed Gecko adapting their care to meet their specific needs. Regular observation and interaction will help you understand your gecko's behaviour, and consulting with a reptile veterinarian is advisable for any concerns.