



Leachie Gecko Care Sheet

Species name:

Rhacodactylus leachianus

Adult size:

36-43 cm

Lifespan:

20 Years

Breeding age:

3 years



The Leachianus gecko, or Leachie, (*Rhacodactylus leachianus*) is the largest known gecko species, native to New Caledonia. These nocturnal, arboreal reptiles are known for their stout bodies, strong jaws, and distinctive vocalisations, making growls and squeaks to communicate. Leachies have a mottled green and grey skin pattern that blends with tree bark, providing camouflage in their rainforest habitats. They feed on a mix of fruits, nectar, and small animals, such as insects. Due to their unique appearance and manageable care needs, Leachies are popular pets, though they require a spacious, vertical enclosure to thrive.

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Housing:

Enclosure: A vertically oriented terrarium is ideal, as crested geckos are arboreal. An 90x45x90cm 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 27-28°C

Cooler side around 20-25°C

Night-time temperature: 18-22°C

Lighting:

Leachie geckos require UVB lighting, a 6-7% shade dwellers UVB should be used. 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: Leachie geckos are generally docile but can be jumpy. Handle them gently and infrequently to minimise 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 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.

Leachie 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.