



Scorpion Tailed Gecko Care Sheet

Species name:

Pristurus carteri

Adult size:

5-6 cm

Lifespan:

5-10

Breeding age:

2-3 years



The scorpion-tailed gecko (*Pristurus carteri*) is a small, agile lizard native to the Arabian Peninsula. Named for its distinctive behaviour of curling its tail over its back like a scorpion, this gecko uses the display to deter predators. It inhabits arid desert regions, where it blends seamlessly with the sandy environment. Nocturnal by nature, the scorpion-tailed gecko feeds on small insects and invertebrates. It exhibits a robust and hardy physique, adapted to harsh conditions. Lifespan ranges from 5 to 10 years in captivity, where it thrives with proper care, including a suitable habitat and diet tailored to its natural needs.

Visit Reptco.co.uk

Housing:

Enclosure: Provide a secure enclosure with a recommended minimum size of 2ft for one gecko, and additional space if housing more than one gecko together. Scorpion 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 40-45°C.

Cooler side around 30°C.

Lighting:

Scorpion Tailed geckos will benefit from a 10-12% UVB bulb.

It is important however to provide a day-night cycle of 10-12 hours of light per day.

Feeding:

Diet: These 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: These animals are best not handled. They are very fast and stress very easily. Only Handle when necessary for example, when cleaning or vet trips.

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 Gecko. Regular observation and interaction will help you understand your gecko's behaviour, and consulting with a reptile veterinarian is advisable for any concerns.