

## Habitat Needs

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### Housing

- Crested geckos can be housed in a 10 - 20 gallon terrarium or screen enclosure. Make sure you give them plenty of plants and décor for climbing and hiding. They prefer their terrarium to be decorated in a semi-tropical style. Their humidity requirement is moderate, so offer some moist moss and mist it with water daily.

### Heat & Lighting

- It is very important you provide your crested gecko with proper heat and lighting. Crested geckos should have a day light (ex. full spectrum fluorescent bulb) over their terrarium that should be kept on for about 12 hours per day. They do not require UV lighting.
- The size of your cage will determine what wattage your heat light should be. You want the cage to have an overall temperature of 72 - 80 degrees. They do not need a basking area and should not be kept above 85 F. If needed, a low wattage red or black heat light will work great because you can leave them on all the time. Make sure the light fixture you are using as your heat light is rated for the wattage of the bulb.

### Substrate/Bedding

- There are many different types of reptile bedding out there. So which ones are right for crested geckos? They like to have a moderately humid climate decorated in a semi-tropical style. Using a mixture of peat moss and bark, or fine coconut husk is good.

### Health & Handling

- When picking out your crested gecko, look for one that is active and alert when you pick it up. A gecko that is skinny and lethargic could be sick. Always take your crested gecko to the vet for a check-up. They can carry worms and parasites that could show no signs of illness but may still need to be treated. Allow a newly purchased gecko a couple of weeks to acclimate to its new surroundings before handling. If handled aggressively, crested geckos can lose their tail. If this happens, the tail will heal but will not grow back. Always wash your hands after handling any pet reptile.

## Nutrition

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### Staple Diet

- In the wild, crested geckos eat fruits, nectars and insects. There are some pre-made gecko diet formulas that you can find at your local pet store. These are a well-balanced source of nutrition for your gecko. Feed baby crested geckos 6 - 12 pinhead to small size crickets daily for about the first year. Offer them crested gecko diet in a small dish a few times a week. Once they reach adulthood you will want to feed around 6 - 10 medium to large size crickets every other day along with a crested gecko diet.



- Vitamins and Calcium are supplements that are crucial to your crested geckos health. Pre-made crested gecko diets may already contain these supplements so read the directions carefully.
- Otherwise, for babies, dust the crickets with powdered calcium every day and powdered vitamin 3 times a week. For adults, dust the crickets 2 - 3 times a week with calcium and vitamins.

#### Water

- Always provide your crested gecko with fresh water.

#### Extra Information

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- Scientific Name: *Rhacodactylus ciliatus*
- Native to: Southern Grand Terre and New Caledonia
- Temperament: Docile
- Average size: 7" - 10"
- Life Expectancy: 5 - 10 years
- Climate: Semi Tropical
- Humidity: Moderate

