

crested gecko

care sheet



Crested geckos, also known as eyelash geckos, were thought to be extinct until 1994, when several relatively large, thriving populations were found on the islands of New Caledonia.

facts

average adult size:	5 to 8 inches
average life span:	5 to 10 years with proper care
diet:	omnivore

Will reach adult size in 9 to 12 months, under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your reptile grows.



Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, refer to the Sources section or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.

diet

A well-balanced crested gecko diet consists of:

- Commercial crested gecko food, which is a complete balanced diet. This powder can also be used to dust insects.
- As a treat, provide a variety of insects, including gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets, mealworms and waxworms.
- Sweet baby foods, such as peach, banana or apricot can be mixed with the crested gecko diet and offered as a treat.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your crested gecko:

- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times.
- Feed commercial food every night and remove uneaten food in the morning.
- Insects should be given at night, 2 to 3 times weekly; remove uneaten insects in the morning.
- Sprinkle insects with a calcium supplement at each feeding and a multi-vitamin supplement once or twice a week.

housing

- Size - Appropriately sized glass or plastic habitat with secure cover. Height is more important than floor space.
- Habitat - Provide multiple branches for climbing and shelter for hiding; live, non-toxic plants are also recommended. Maintain 60 to 80% humidity by misting as needed everyday.
- Substrate - Use a mulch type such as coconut fiber, dampened sphagnum moss or bark.
- Temperature - Daytime between 75° and 82°F; nighttime between 68° and 75°F; recommend radiant heat. Use a low wattage heat lamp if necessary.
- Lighting - Provide light 10 to 12 hours a day. An incandescent day bulb is needed for basking area if not using a ceramic heater or nocturnal incandescent bulb.
- Keep only one adult male crested gecko per enclosure and do **not** house different reptile species together.

normal behavior

- Crested geckos are nocturnal (active at night) and will spend most daylight hours hidden in their habitat.
- Exceptional leapers, they will jump from one perch to the next almost like frogs.
- Will tolerate gentle handling; rough handling will stress your gecko and may cause them to drop their tail, which will not grow back.
- Crested geckos lick their eyeballs to moisten them.

habitat maintenance

- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the habitat at least once a week: place chameleon in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all traces of bleach smell; dry the tank and furnishings completely and add clean substrate.

grooming & hygiene

- Crested geckos regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is at appropriate level to allow proper shedding. To facilitate shedding, provide a shed box, a hide box with sphagnum moss, that will aid in the shedding process.
- Do not be surprised to see a crested gecko eating their shedding skin.

signs of a healthy animal

- Active, alert and interested in humans
- Clear eyes
- Body and tail are filled out
- Healthy skin
- Clear nose and vent
- Eats regularly

red flags

- Weight loss or decreased appetite
- Mucus in mouth or nose
- Swelling
- Lethargy
- Bumps, sores or abrasions on skin
- Labored breathing
- Paralysis of limbs
- Abnormal feces
- Retained shed on toes

If you notice any of these signs, contact your veterinarian.

common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Gastro-intestinal disease	Runny stools, caked or smeared stool around the vent area and loss of appetite caused by bacterial or parasitic infection.	Consult your veterinarian.
Metabolic bone/vitamin deficiency	Inability to absorb calcium due to insufficient UVB light or improper amounts of calcium/vitamin D. If untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities, softened bones, swollen limbs and lethargy.	Consult your veterinarian and provide ample UVB lighting and proper calcium/vitamin supplements.
Respiratory disease	Labored breathing and mucus in the mouth or nose. Can be caused by a habitat that is too cold or damp.	Consult your veterinarian and ensure habitat is proper temperature.

shopping list for needed supplies

- Appropriately sized habitat
- Commercial crested gecko food
- Treats
- Substrate
- Moss
- Food and water dishes
- Mealworm dish
- Hideaway place
- Climbing décor
- Plants
- Heat light
- Heat fixture
- Under-tank heater (optional)
- Vitamin supplement
- Calcium supplement
- Cricket quencher
- Cricket keeper
- Cricket food
- Thermometer
- Humidity gauge
- Book about crested geckos

sources

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on crested geckos and the variety of private brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All private brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all reptiles are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as *Salmonella*, always wash your hands before and after handling your reptile or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of disease.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5, senior citizens and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing or caring for reptiles and should consider not having a reptile as a pet.

Go to cdc.gov/healthypets and petco.com/caresheet for more information about small animals and disease.

This Care Sheet can cover the care needs of other species. Go to petco.com for more information.

