Aurora ANIMAL + HOSPITAL
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Crested Gecko Caresheet



Please note these care sheets are intended for the average reptile owner to ensure that your pet is receiving basic care needed to have a healthy life and there are other aspects of advanced care that can be considered for healthy pets.

Brief Description
Crested Geckos *(Correlophus ciliates)* are small arboreal geckos native to New Caledonia, an island near Australia. Cresties are popular pet lizards, especially for beginners, due to their smaller size (around 8" long) and comparatively easy care requirements. Unlike other geckos their tail will not grow back if it falls off (don't grab by the tail!), which is a defense mechanism to avoid predators. Interestingly crested geckos do not have eyelids so they will lick their eyes to keep them clean and moist. They are primarily nocturnal and will hide most of the day.

Lifespan
With proper care expected lifespan is 15-20 years on average.

Sexing
Once your gecko reaches maturity if you look at the underside of the tail just past the vent males will have two bulges side by side where the hemipenes (reproductive organs) sit in the base of the tail. Females will not have this.

Caging
Baby crested geckos can be kept in 5-10 gallon enclosures as they grow however adults need at least a 20 gallon aquarium. Front opening glass enclosures (minimum size 18x18x18") work particularly well for adult crested geckos to retain humidity and give ample space for climbing. Multiple females can sometimes be housed together successfully but males will fight if housed together. One gecko per cage is the general recommendation.

Substrate
Reptile carpet, flat stones or newspaper can be used at the bottom of the cage. Coco coir +/- sphagnum moss can also be used to create a naturalistic terrarium setup and it does help with humidity. Sand and mulch should be avoided. There should be many plants (fake or real) for hiding as well as multiple branches to climb on.

Lighting and Temperature
Reptiles are ectotherms (cold-blooded), meaning they need to absorb heat from their environment to regulate their own body heat since they cannot produce it. Crested geckos generally thrive at room temperature **(72-76 degrees)** but may utilize a basking area of around 85 degrees. Temperature should not exceed 90 degrees. A thermometer should be placed in the cage to accurately measure temperature. Night temperatures can safely drop to 60 degrees so a night time heat source is not necessary.

Crested geckos may not require UVB light, however recent research suggests that they may benefit from low level UVB. UVB is recommended for babies and breeding females to prevent metabolic bone disease.

Humidity
Humidity in the tank should be 60-70% at all times with spikes up to 80-90% several times a day when the cage is misted. The vents of the cage may need to be at least partially covered to help maintain humidity levels and the use of a humidifier or fogger is highly recommended. Humidity should be monitored by a hygrometer.

Food
The staple of the diet should be a commercial powdered Crested Gecko food. Pangea, Repashy, and Zoomed have several varieties of powdered crested gecko diet available. These are made with quality ingredients that provide the balanced nutrition of a complete diet without additional foods or supplements. It should be offered in a small dish every other day and any uneaten portion removed after 24 hours. A few crickets (dusted with calcium and gutloaded) can be offered once or twice a week but are not absolutely necessary. Mealworms should be avoided.

Water
Geckos will readily drink from droplets on plants, branches, and the glass siding after misting the enclosure. A small dish of clean water should be available at all times as well.

Supplementation
A powdered calcium supplement like Repashy Calcium Plus should be lightly sprinkled over any insects offered. It is not necessary to use additional supplements with the powdered complete diets.