

## shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately sized habitat
- book about crested geckos
- commercial crested gecko food
- treats
- substrate
- moss
- food and water dishes
- mealworm dish
- hideaway place
- climbing décor
- plants
- under tank heater
- vitamin supplement
- calcium supplement
- cricket keeper
- cricket food

## sources

Ask an associate about Petco's selection of books on Crested Geckos and the variety of Petco Brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All Petco Brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

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

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a Gecko and should consider not having a Gecko as a pet. Go to the Centers for Disease Control at [cdc.gov/healthypets/](http://cdc.gov/healthypets/) for more information about Geckos and disease. Go to [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet) to download other helpful Care Sheets.

This care sheet can cover the needs of other species. See [petco.com](http://petco.com) for more information.

# Crested Gecko

*rhacodactylus ciliatus*



## Care Sheet

**This Gecko was thought to be extinct until 1994, when several relatively large, thriving populations were found on the islands of New Caledonia.**

### Crested Gecko 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 9-12 months, under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your reptile grows.*

**Note:** The information in this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

# Care Sheet

## Crested Gecko *rhacodactylus ciliatus*



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, remove uneaten food in the morning.
- Insects should be given at night, 2-3 times weekly; remove uneaten insects in the morning.

- Sprinkle insects with calcium supplement.

### housing

- Size - appropriate size 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 greater than 50% humidity by misting as needed every day.
- Substrate - use a mulch-type such as coconut fiber, dampened sphagnum moss, or bark.
- Temperature - daytime between 75-80°; nighttime between 68-75°; recommend radiant heat. Use a low wattage heat lamp if necessary.
- Lighting - provide light 10-12 hours a day. An incandescent day bulb is needed for basking area if not using a ceramic heater or black 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 tails, which will not re-grow.

### habitat maintenance

- Thoroughly clean the habitat at least once a week.
- Place Gecko 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, bathe in a large container that allows the Crested Gecko to immerse its entire body or provide a shed box, which is essentially 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 rounded, 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 or tail
- abnormal feces

*If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal 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 exotic animal veterinarian.
Metabolic bone/vitamin deficiency	Inability to absorb calcium due to insufficient UVB light. If untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities and softened bones. Swollen limbs and lethargy.	Consult your exotic animal veterinarian and provide ample UVB lighting.
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 exotic animal veterinarian and ensure habitat is appropriately warm.