



# Crested Gecko

*Rhacodactylus ciliatus*

## Care Sheet

**Caging needed:** Crested geckos are arboreal which means they live up off the ground in trees. When picking a terrarium for your gecko, look for something with height over length to place branches, leaves, and logs for them to climb up on and hide in. A hiding place on the cage floor should also be provided in case they do choose to come down. The cage needs to be well ventilated to prevent mold from growing between misting. A shallow hanging water dish and food bowl should be placed up in the limbs. Crested geckos will not climb down to eat or drink.

**Heating:** Crested geckos are best maintained at room temperature (72-80 degrees preferred). No supplemental heating is required; in fact it is not even recommended. Temperatures over 82 degrees may cause your gecko to lose their appetites and become stressed. If placing a light bulb over their closure for like nothing more than a 15 watt bulb should be used for a smaller cage (12x12x18) or 25 watts on a larger cage (18x18x18 or equivalent).

**Humidity:** Humidity should be kept between 40-50%. This can be maintained by misting the cage once or twice a day.

**Diet:** Crested Geckos **CANNOT LIVE OFF OF CRICKETS**. They must have a prepared crested gecko diet. The top brands of this diet available are Pangea and Repashy. Follow the direction on the bottle. Crested Geckos can have crickets on occasion, if dusted with a calcium powder. Crickets to a crested is equivalent to us eating candy or McDonalds.

**Misc:** Crested geckos are one of the easiest geckos to be held once tamed. It is best to let them walk hand over hand across you instead of trying to restrain or hold the gecko in one hand. Younger geckos and ones that have not experienced much handling will be very jumpy at first, but with short periods of handling they will be calm in no time. Crested Geckos can be kept by themselves, in breeding groups (one male, multiple females), or an all female group.

**Average Size:** 6-8 inches including tail

**Life Span:** 15-20 years

