



## Crested gecko

*Correlophus ciliatus*

<b>Adult Size</b>	8 inches	<b>Life Span</b>	15-20 years
<b>Male/Female Differences</b>	Male crested geckos will develop a very noticeable hemipenal bulge just below the vent. The hemipenal bulge develops on males at between 5 months and 9 months old.		
<b>Compatibility</b>	Males should never be housed together. If housing multiple geckos in the same cage make sure to provide 10 gallons per 1 gecko, with plenty of hiding spaces. This will ensure there will be no territorial fighting.		
<b>Origin</b>	New Caledonia (Island grouping between Fiji and Australia.)		
<b>Climate</b>	Humid and tropical jungles, but adapts to household environments well.		
<b>Day Cycle</b>	Nocturnal, working the night shift when their food is available.		
<b>Temperature</b>	78-82 degrees is fine, cooling down to 70 degrees at night. Use mild heat sources such as a low watt reptile heat mat or ceramic bulb.		
<b>Lighting</b>	Even though crested geckos are nocturnal, use a high quality UVA light to stimulate appetite and for emotional health.		
<b>Humidity</b>	Relative humidity should be kept at %50-%70. Keep humid with frequent misting and a shallow water bowl.		
<b>Habitat/Territory</b>	Crested geckos are arboreal with special feet that allow them to climb even the smoothest glass.		
<b>Substrate/Bedding</b>	Coconut fiber, or vermiculite can be used, but the substrate is not important as they will spend most of their time hiding in plants. Moss helps provide extra moisture and humidity.		
<b>Hiding Place/Den</b>	Provide plenty of plants – either artificial or real – for crested geckos as		

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	they need places to hide.
<b>Cage Type</b>	Ten gallon aquariums or critter cages with screen tops work well for crested geckos. This provides plenty of room for plants for them to hide in. Use care when removing the screen top to prevent the crested gecko from escaping.
<b>Diet</b>	Commercial diets like Repashi have contributed to longer lives in captivity, as they are complete diets and should form the basis. Mix the powder with water and change if it gets dry. Offer fruits, like bananas, mango, pears, peaches, cantalope, watermelon, grapes, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, apples, figs, dates, plums, and apricots occasionally as treats. Fruit based baby foods can also be offered occasionally for variety. Crested geckos relish insects and some hobbyists choose to offer these as either a primary diet or as supplementary diet.
<b>Supplements</b>	Crickets should be lightly coated with a vitamin/mineral supplement that contains calcium, vitamin D3, and a complement of other essential vitamins and minerals.
<b>Diet Precautions</b>	Crested geckos have simple diet requirements, and need little extra foods. Ensure food is the right size; larger crickets might be harder for the crested gecko to eat.
<b>Feeding</b>	Feed in the evenings and remove uneaten food in the morning. Make sure fruits are soft or mashed and insects are small enough.
<b>Water Source</b>	Provide a shallow water bowl for humidity and for soaking. Change water daily to keep clean.
<b>Grooming</b>	Crested geckos do shed their skin, so provide a water bowl to aid this process.
<b>Oral and Foot Care</b>	There are no foot or oral concerns.
<b>Proper Handling</b>	Newly purchased crested geckos should not be handled, but first allowed to settle in for three to four weeks to let them adjust to their new environment and to make sure they are eating regularly. After that period, handling should be kept minimal and only when the crested gecko reaches 3 inches long.
<b>Habitat Maintenance</b>	Spot clean soiled areas and plants. Use vinegar to clean water spots on glass from misting. Every few weeks replace substrate to prevent mold from growing.
<b>Health Concerns</b>	A hardy species, crested geckos stay healthy when you maintain a good diet, proper temperature and humidity.

