



**Jungle Bob's Care Sheet**  
**Crested Geckos**  
(*Rhacodactylus/Correlophus ciliatus*)

**General Information**

The Crested Gecko (or “Crestie”/Eyelash Gecko) has skyrocketed in popularity since its relatively recent introduction into the pet trade (until the mid-1990’s, it was presumed extinct!). Extremely hardy, mild-mannered, and able to thrive on a simple diet, it is a great choice for novice and experienced keepers alike.

Nocturnal and arboreal, Crested Geckos are limited to the New Caledonian islands of Grand Terre and Isle of Pines, where they are found only in small areas of mountainous rainforest.

A raised crest runs along each side of the back, above the eyes, and on the limbs. The head is triangular in shape and the tail is prehensile. Crested Geckos mature at 6-8 inches in length. They may have stripes, color-tipped crests, or no pattern at all. Several unique color morphs have been produced by breeders.

**Housing**

We like to start a baby Crested Gecko in a 12”x12”x18” terrarium or other vertically oriented terrariums of similar size, stocked with plenty of branches, plants, cork bark, and vines. The substrate may be coconut husk, cypress mulch, or moss to help maintain humidity.

Crested Geckos obtain Vitamin D3 from their diet, so they do not need a UVB light source. However, a low output UVB bulb may be used to help simulate a normal day/night cycle. They fare best at a temperature gradient of 68-82 F. Humidity should be kept around 50-75%. Males cannot be housed together. Females usually get along well, but groups must be monitored carefully. It is always safer to keep them alone.

## **Diet**

Commercial Crested Gecko Food has been successfully used as 100% of the diet. Pets can also be offered a variety in the form of crickets, roaches, and black soldier fly larvae. Insects should themselves be provided with a nutritious diet before being offered to your pets. A water bowl should be used, but more importantly, misting the terrarium daily, as geckos prefer lapping water drops to using a water bowl.

Your pets also need a calcium and vitamin supplement. A Calcium/VitaminD3 supplement should be used on all meals offered to babies and reduced to 2-3 times weekly for adults. A vitamin/mineral powder should be employed 2-3 times weekly.

## **Cleaning and Handling**

The terrarium should be cleaned as necessary, with fecal matter and left -over food being removed daily and the substrate being changed once each month. The inside of the terrarium can be cleaned with an appropriate reptile cage cleaner. Going “Bio-Active” is also a great option for Crested Geckos.

Crested Geckos can be somewhat high-strung and are likely to leap from the hand if frightened. The tail will snap off if grabbed and, oddly for a gecko, will not re-grow. Care must be taken to avoid unexpected leaps and falls. Always wash your hands before and after handling any animal.

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