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New Caledonian Gecko

Rhacodactylus ciliatus

Lifespan: 15+ years

Size: Can grow 8 to 9 inches long



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Sexing: Male Crested Geckos have prominent hemipenal bulges at the base of their tails.

Enclosure: Crested Geckos do best in a tall arboreal setup. For 1-2 adult geckos, an 18x18x24 enclosure is adequate. For more than one two geckos use a larger tank like an 18x18x36. Climbing vines, foliage, branches, and cork bark can be used for decoration and hiding places. Live plants can also be used, but make sure they are not toxic to reptiles. Some good choices are Golden Pothos, Weeping Fig, or Snake plants. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra All-Glass Terrariums.***

Humidity: The enclosure should be well-ventilated and misted well to keep the humidity high (60% to 80%) and to aid the process of shedding and prevent health problems. Use a hygrometer to monitor humidity level. If the enclosure is not well-ventilated, mold begins to grow, and the air becomes stagnant which can lead to respiratory infections and other health issues.

Substrate: Loose, moist forest substrate or paper towel should be used as a substrate. Moss can also be added to will help keep the humidity up. ***Pisces recommends: Zoomed Reptisoil, Exo Terra plantation soil or Jurassic ABG substrate.***

Heat: Maintain a temperature between 65°-70° at night. 72°-76° is the optimum temperate to keep your gecko at during the day and should never exceed 78°-80°. A temperature 82° or higher can be fatal to your gecko. Use a heat bulb on one end of the tank to create a temperature gradient so the Crested Gecko can move about as it pleases. ***Pisces recommends: Exo Terra or Arcadia bulbs and fixtures.***

UV Lighting: If proper supplements are given, Crested Geckos do not require UVB/UVA lighting. Make certain that the vitamin supplement has Vitamin D3.

Feeding: Crested Geckos will eat supplement-dusted crickets and commercial crested gecko diet. Adults can do without insects, but babies should be given crickets 1-2x a week for protein to grow properly. Feed every other day and try to vary the diet as much as possible. The more variety of food you feed your gecko the healthier they will be. ***Pisces recommends: Repashy or Pangea Crested Gecko Diets***

Vitamins & Supplements: Dust bugs every feeding with a calcium dust, reptiles are prone to metabolic bone disease. A vitamin powder with vitamin D3 should be given every third feeding.

Pisces recommends: Repashy Calcium Plus and Supervite or Pangeacal with D3

Handling: Crested geckos should be handled with care as they have sensitive skin. Once comfortable, most Crested Geckos are happy to perch on a shoulder or hand. They don't run much but they do leap, and quite far. Babies should be handled with extreme care, to minimize tail drops. Crested Geckos will drop their tails if handled too roughly and unlike other geckos they will not grow their tails back.

Safe Handling of Reptiles*: As with all living creatures, reptiles can carry microorganisms (including Salmonella) which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet reptile roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

Your New Pet: It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness. Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you, but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat. A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.

Pisces Recommended Setup:

- ❑ Tall Exo Terra Glass terrarium(Small Tall 18x18x24).
- ❑ Exo Terra Jungle Vines and forest branches
- ❑ Zoomed or Jurassic cork rounds/flats for climbing, hiding and aid in shedding
- ❑ Plants (live plants and/or Exo Terra/Pangea artificial hanging plants)
- ❑ Exo Terra Misting bottle or MistKing System
- ❑ Small to medium Exo Terra, Zoomed or Pet-Tekk water dish
- ❑ Exo Terra Plantation soil, Zoomed Reptisoil or Jurassic ABG Mix
- ❑ Magnaturals magnetic food ledge or Pangea small acrylic food ledge
- ❑ Exo Terra 75-watt daylight basking spot lamp & Flukers 5.5in Dimmable Deluxe Clamp Lamp fixture (if needed due for low house temperatures)
- ❑ Repashy Calcium Plus/Pangeacal
- ❑ Repashy Supervite/Herp-Cal Herptivite multivitamins
- ❑ Crickets (1–5-week-old depending on the space between the geckos' eyes)
- ❑ Pangea or Repashy Complete Crested Gecko food
- ❑ Exo Terra digital thermometer, hydrometer or combometer
- ❑ Jurassic leaf litter and sphagnum moss