



Handling

Once you first purchase your gecko, refrain from opening the container until you get into your home and your set up is ready. Once the gecko is in the enclosure, let the gecko settle in for about 2 weeks so it can adjust to its new home. If you own multiple reptiles, be sure to quarantine your gecko away from the other reptiles during this period. Also during this time, make sure that your gecko is eating and pooping normally. Once the 2 week period has passed, you can start to gently handle the gecko. Start with 5 minutes a day, and slowly work up every day. If the gecko stresses out too much, set gecko back into the enclosure and try again in a few days. Every crested gecko is different, some will refuse to be handled and will be difficult to tame.

Lifespan & Size

Crested geckos can live anywhere from 15 to 20 years with proper husbandry. Adults grow to the average size of 4.5" from tip of nose to vent (8-10" including tail), and adults can weigh average about 35-40+ grams. Crested geckos can drop their tail, and they do not grow back.



Diet

Crested geckos are insectivores and frugivores, meaning that they eat both bugs and MRPs (meal replacement powders). Geckos 4-6 months old should have MRPs available at all time, and changed out every other day with fresh food. Adult can go every few days in between feedings of MRPs. A favored MRP is Pangea Crested Gecko Diet (Watermelon + Growth & Breeding seem to be a gecko favorite!). Be sure to check the food every night to be sure that there is no molding. A small water dish should be in the enclosure all times as well. Tong feed calcium dusted (with d3 if no UVB is used) gut loaded crickets or dubia roaches once per week, or every other week. The cricket or dubia roach should be no bigger than the space in between their eyes. No crickets or dubia roaches should be left unsupervised in the enclosure. Do not feed mealworms or superworms, for they do not digest them correctly.



Housing

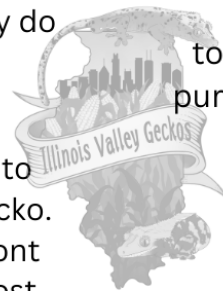
There are a couple different ways to make an enclosure for a crested gecko. Either you can assemble a glass front opening terrarium, which is the most appealing, or you can also modify a tub with screen as well. Crested geckos are solitary animals, do not house them together unless for breeding purposes.

Tubs

6qt / hatchling - 10g
18qt / 10-20g
32qt / 20-35g
66qt / 35-50g
90qt / 50g+

Tanks

8x8x12 / hatchling-13g
12x12x18 / 13-28g
18x18x24 / 28g+



Temperatures

Crested geckos thrive at room temperature of 72-77 degrees Fahrenheit, so there is no need for a heat source. The only time a heat source is needed is if night time temperatures drop below 66 degrees Fahrenheit. A good heat source is an Arcadia Deep Heat Projector 50watt with a 5.5" lamp with a Reptitemp Digital Thermostat hooked up.

Light



Crested geckos are crepuscular, which means that they are active at night. They should be exposed to light 10-12 hours a day, and the light should be on a timer for a natural day and night light cycle. A recommended light source is Arcadia Shadedweller Arboreal 2.4% UVB, for it is not only beneficial towards the gecko, but also serves a purpose of a light source without heat!

UVB is optional, but strongly recommended.

Humidity

Crested geckos are a sub-tropical species, so they require a moderate level of humidity of around 60-80% with dry out periods necessary. Spray 1-2 times a day, depending on your humidity inside your home. Once at night, and if needed, once in the morning.