



Gargoyle Gecko Care Guide

Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop

Basic Info

Species: *Rhacodactylus auriculatus*

Lifespan: 15-20+ years in captivity

Adult Size: 8-10 inches including tail

Temperament: Generally calm but can be jumpy; tolerates handling with time

Best for: Intermediate reptile keepers due to humidity and dietary needs

Enclosure Setup

Tank Size:

- Juveniles: 10-15 gallon vertical tank or 12x12x18 enclosure
- Adults: Minimum 18x18x24 enclosure
- Focus on vertical space for climbing

Temperature & Heating:

- Ideal range: 72-78°F
- Do not exceed 82°F - can cause stress or death
- No heat lamp needed if ambient temps are within range

Humidity:

- Maintain 50-70% humidity
- Mist 1-2 times daily to provide water droplets

- Allow enclosure to dry between mistings

Lighting:

- No UVB required but low-level UVB (5.0) may benefit long-term health
- Provide 12-hour light/dark cycle using low-intensity lighting

Substrate:

- Coconut fiber, bioactive substrate, or paper towels for juveniles
- Maintain humidity-retaining but mold-resistant conditions

Décor & Climbing Surfaces:

- Branches, cork bark, vines, and foliage
- Include multiple hides and vertical climbing options

Diet & Feeding

Feeding Frequency:

- Juveniles: Feed daily
- Adults: Feed every other day

Diet:

- Commercial gecko diet (CGD) as a staple
- Optional live insects 1-2x/week: dubia roaches, crickets, black soldier fly larvae
- Insects must be gut-loaded and dusted with calcium

Supplementation:

- CGD is usually complete, but insects should be dusted with calcium with D3 (2-3x/week)
- Multivitamin: 1x/week if insects are regularly used

Water & Hydration:

- Mist enclosure to provide drinking droplets
- Keep a small shallow water dish available

Handling & Behavior

Handling:

- Start slow and handle gently over a soft surface
- Avoid sudden movements and tail grabbing
- May jump unpredictably, especially when young

Behavior to Expect:

- Nocturnal and arboreal
- Active and curious at night
- May vocalize or chirp when startled or during social behavior

Supplies Checklist

- Vertical terrarium (18x18x24 for adults)
- Branches, cork bark, and foliage
- Mist bottle or automatic misting system
- Digital thermometer and hygrometer
- Commercial gecko diet (CGD)
- Optional feeder insects and calcium/multivitamin
- Water dish and food ledge or cup
- Humidity-retaining substrate (coco fiber or bioactive)

Contact Us

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We're here to help!