



# Starry Night Geckos

## Crested Gecko Care Sheet

### *Introduction*

Welcome to the world of crested gecko ownership! We are thrilled that you've chosen one of these captivating reptiles as your new companion. Below, you'll find detailed information to ensure the health and happiness of your crested gecko.

### *Housing*

#### **1. Enclosure**

- Provide a vertically oriented glass terrarium. A 20-gallon tank suits one adult gecko, while larger tanks are preferable for multiple individuals.
- Ensure adequate ventilation to prevent respiratory issues.
- Include branches, vines, and plants for climbing and hiding.

#### **2. Substrate**

- ABG Mix or Alternative: Consider using an ABG (Atlanta Botanical Garden) mix, which is a commercially available substrate consisting of organic potting soil, tree fern fiber, sphagnum moss, and charcoal. This mixture provides excellent drainage and promotes plant growth.
- You can make ABG mix yourself by mixing 100% organic potting soil with 100% natural play sand and sphagnum moss
- ABG mix can be used without live plants and still holds humidity effectively.
- Provide a substrate depth of at least 2 inches.

#### **3. Temperature and Lighting**

- Maintain 72-80°F (22-26°C) during the day, slightly cooler at night.
- UVB lighting isn't mandatory but can benefit their overall health.



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## ***Diet***

### **1. Main Diet**

- Offer commercially available crested gecko diets as the staple. Supplement with live insects like crickets, roaches, and mealworms dusted with calcium + D3 powder.
- You may choose to offer occasional fruits such as mango, peach, or banana.

### **2. Feeding Schedule**

- Feed juveniles little, but daily. Feed adults every other day. There are multiple commercially available food dishes and cups for proper portioning of mixed food.
- Ensure a shallow dish of water is always available for hydration.

## ***Handling***

### **1. Gentle Approach**

- Handle your crested gecko gently and infrequently, especially during the initial acclimation period.
- Avoid grabbing their tail, as it may detach.
- Always support their body properly to prevent injury.

## ***Health***

### **1. Regular Check-ups**

- Monitor for lethargy, loss of appetite, or abnormal feces.
- Consult a reptile veterinarian if any concerning symptoms arise.

### **2. Hygiene**

- Maintain cleanliness by removing feces and soiled substrate regularly.
- Clean water dishes regularly to prevent bacterial growth.



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## ***Enrichment***

### **1. Climbing Structures**

- Offer branches, vines, and plants for climbing and hiding.
- Incorporate artificial or live (non-toxic) plants to enhance their environment.
- There are online lists of appropriate plants for crested geckos, as well as those that are toxic. Conduct proper research before adding any live plants to the terrarium.

### **2. Variety**

- Textures: Provide a variety of hiding spots and textures to encourage exploration and mental stimulation.

## ***Conclusion***

Crested geckos are fascinating and low-maintenance pets, suitable for both beginners and experienced reptile enthusiasts. By following this comprehensive care guide, you can provide your crested gecko with a fulfilling and enriched life. These are the methods that we use to ensure healthy animals. Please observe your gecko daily and consult a reptile expert or veterinarian if concerns arise. This document is meant to be an introductory care guide only.