

# Crested Gecko Care: The Complete Recovery Standard

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## 1. The Enclosure: Vertical Space & Humidity

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Unlike terrestrial geckos, Cresteds are arboreal (tree-dwellers). Adults require a minimum **18x18x24in vertical enclosure**—height is more important than floor space. Maintain **60–80% humidity** by misting daily. A secure lid is mandatory, as they are surprisingly fast jumpers.

## 2. Thermal Gradient: The "Room Temp" Lizard

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They thrive at room temperature (70–75°F). Anything over 80°F can be fatal. If your house drops below 68°F at night, use a small, thermostatically controlled heat mat on the *side* of the tank—never the bottom.

## 3. Nutrition: The Powdered Diet

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A high-quality, complete powdered diet is the foundation of health; mix with water to a ketchup-like consistency. Offer fresh food 3–4 times a week. You may offer live, gut-loaded crickets once a week for enrichment, but it is optional.

***THE REALITY CHECK:** Crested Geckos are a 15–20 year commitment. They are high-humidity tropical animals that require daily misting and regular cage cleaning to prevent mold. If you cannot maintain their humidity and keep their environment clean, please do not adopt.*

## 4. Health: Recovery Red Flags

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- **Floppy Tail Syndrome:** When the tail hangs down, often due to a lack of proper climbing surfaces. Provide plenty of horizontal branches.

- **Respiratory Infection:** Labored/open-mouth breathing, often caused by mold or stagnant water.
- **Stuck Shed:** Common in toes or tail tip due to humidity that is too low.

## 5. Enrichment & Sustainability

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**Sustainability tip:** Use clean, food-safe plastic containers as "ledge hides" attached to the side of the tank with suction cups. Use natural branches and live plants where possible.

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