



# Crested Gecko Care Guide

## 1. Background:

- Crested geckos (*Rhacodactylus ciliatus*) are native to the jungles of southern New Caledonia.
- They were once thought to be extinct but were “rediscovered” around 1994.
- These geckos are also known as **eyelash geckos** due to the hair-like projections above their eyes.

## 2. Appearance:

- Average adult length: 5-8 inches.
- Weight: 35-55 grams.
- They have a distinctive crest running from each eye down to the tail.
- Large eyes and vertically flattened tails.

## 3. Temperament and Behavior:

- Crested geckos are usually docile but a bit skittish.
- Avoid excessive handling to prevent injury.
- They love to climb and jump.

## 4. Housing:

- A 20-gallon terrarium is sufficient for adults, but a larger tank is better.
- Provide vertical space for climbing.
- Use branches, driftwood, and silk/live plants for hiding and cover.

## 5. Care Requirements:

- Mist them at least twice a day for humidity.
- Feed a commercially prepared crested gecko diet.
- No supplemental lighting or heating required, but a natural environment is preferred.

## 6. Health and Maintenance:

- Regularly clean the terrarium.
- Monitor for signs of health issues (dehydration, impaction, etc.).
- Handle gently and limit handling time.

Remember, crested geckos are nocturnal and fragile, so handle them with care and provide a suitable environment for their well-being!