



Care Sheet Crested Gecko - *Correlophus ciliatus*

Named crested because of the frilled crest on the head that can extend down the body. Also called “eyelash” gecko in the common pet trade. From the southern portion of New Caledonia. Life span with good care is 15-20 years. New Caledonia is a sub tropical island with mild climate.

Crested Geckos are one of the few gecko species that will not regenerate its tail. Once it is lost, it is lost forever, it can heal up to a small nub like tail but it will never be a full useful tail.

Housing: Geckos should be housed singularly. Crested Geckos do not seem as cannibalistic or aggressive as other gecko species but communal housing is not recommended. Geckos are solitary in the wild and do not get lonely. Hatchlings can be kept in shoebox sized enclosures while they are small to aid them in finding food & water. A moderate sized adult gecko can be housed in 12*12*18 or larger. Larger is always recommended over smaller for juvenile or adult. Cresteds are nocturnal & will move about their enclosure at night looking for food & exploring. They seem to be the most active in the pre dawn/early morning hours. They may pick a favorite secure sleeping spot which is why they seem to never move. They have very sticky feet and can cling to the sides of the glass enclosure. Make sure to provide plenty of hiding spaces where they feel safe and secure. Crested geckos that spend time on the sides of their enclosure upside down can develop floppy tail syndrome that can damage their spine.

Housing exceptions can be made for breeding purposes, a breeding pair or trio (2 females/1 male). Care should be taken during introductions to avoid any aggression. Always monitor for your pairs for their health and well being. Make sure you have the option to remove to another enclosure if you notice injury or weight loss from bullying. Make sure to provide your breeding pairs with an off season. Male geckos should never be housed together, they will attempt to kill each other over territory.

Temperatures: Crested geckos can be housed without supplemental heat in most living situations. Their ideal temperatures are 72-78. Extended temperatures of over 85 degrees can be harmful. Adjustments should be made to their care to make sure their housing falls into their ideal range. The average annual max temperature in New Caledonia is 78.8° Fahrenheit (26.0° Celsius) and average minimal temperature in New Caledonia 68° Fahrenheit (20.0° Celsius) hitting 65°F at times during the three coldest months. Humidity around 60-70%

Food: Crested geckos eat meal replacement. Crested geckos seem to relish insect feeders, both smaller Dubia roaches and calcium dusted crickets. Pangea & Repashy make excellent diets that include grubs and other bugs. We recommend and use those two brands. Make sure to choose at least one variety with insect protein and not fruit only. Hatchlings should always have food available. Juveniles & adults can be offered food every couple of days. Make sure your babies are started on meal replacement before offering bugs.

Water: Always provide a clean water dish in the enclosure. While misting the enclosure can provide them with fresh water droplets & aid in maintaining humidity, geckos will drink from standing water.