



## CRESTED GECKO

*(rhacodactylus ciliatus)*

**ORIGIN:** Crested geckos, once thought to be extinct until found living happily on the island of New Caledonia, an island in the south pacific. Crested geckos are a great alternative to the leopard gecko. They are easy to handle and to care for. Besides having a great personality they are a very attractive reptile ranging in color from brown, orange, red and dalmatian.

**SIZE:** Crested geckos are a stocky species of gecko and generally reach lengths of 5-7 inches. Crested geckos like all geckos can "drop" their tails to try and escape from predators but unlike other species of geckos, crested can not re-grow tails.

**CAGING:** Crested geckos can easily be kept in small enclosures. A single crested gecko can live in a 10 gallon tank. These geckos are nocturnal and need hiding spots. Live tropical plants can be kept in their cage as long as it is kept unfertilized.

**SUBSTRATE:** Crested geckos can be successfully kept on a variety of substrates. Young geckos do great on paper towels or newspaper. Adults can be kept on reptile dirt or orchid bark.

**TEMPERATURE:** Crested geckos thrive at temperature range of 70-85 degrees and no full spectrum due to the fact they are nocturnal. Generally speaking supplemental heating is unneeded unless the room temperature falls below 70 degrees.

**WATER:** Crested geckos should be misted daily and offered a shallow water dish, a water dripper is optional.

**DIET:** Crested geckos diet includes both crickets and fruit flavored baby foods. Crickets should be offered every other day, 5-6 crickets per geckos and alternating with baby food. Other live foods can be meal worms and wax worms. Prior to feeding, insects should be dusted with a mineral powder. You can supplement live insects for a commercial crested gecko diet or meat types of baby food mixtures with mineral powered mixed in.

### RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Enclosure as detailed above.
- Thermometer to keep watch of inside enclosure temps.
- Mineral dust
- Shallow water dish
- Literature about crested gecko husbandry
- Hiding areas such as cork bark or egg carton
- Substrate such as reptile dirt or orchid bark

### OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

- Silk or live tropical plants
- Water dripper
- Fogger

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