



Lone Mountain

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Remember:

Crested geckos love to jump!
Animals that are not accustomed to handling should be handled close to the ground until they become more comfortable

If your crested gecko drops its tail it will never grow its prehensile tail back
This will not cause long-term problems, but rough handling and overly stressing your gecko should be avoided if you want your pet to retain its tail



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Introduction to Crested Geckos

Distribution and Description

The crested gecko, *Rhacodactylus ciliatus*, is an arboreal lizard native to New Caledonia, a tiny chain of islands just east of Australia

Thought of as the perfect pet reptile due to their docile nature, hardiness and ease of care, the crested gecko is just now gaining in popularity

Sexing

Males develop a hemipenile bulge at sexual maturity and sport large femoral pores on the underside of their thighs

Diet

Although they will hunt live prey items on occasion, crested geckos do not require live prey to thrive
Crested geckos can be maintained on a diet of vitamin/mineral dusted or gut loaded crickets
Repashy's Crested Gecko Diet Meal Replacement Powder (MRP) is advised as a staple diet
Some keepers try to add baby food or calcium to diet, but this is not necessary
Feed adult crested geckos 2-3 times a week and more frequently for younger animals
Provide fresh water in shallow dishes

Temperature

Temperatures of 72-80F are preferred
At temperatures over 82-85 F, crested geckos lose their appetite, become stressed and their overall health declines
Brief exposure to temperatures above 85-90 F can be lethal for crested geckos, they will begin to exhibit neurological symptoms and death can occur rather quickly

Lighting

Nocturnal, originate from a forest habitat, so it is debatable as to whether they require access to ultraviolet B (UVB) lighting some experts suggest low level UV light may be beneficial to the health of this species, but the debate still remains
In general, UVB lighting is recommended for 12 hours each day

Humidity/Hydration

Improper humidity can cause dehydration, shedding difficulties, and inability to stick to smooth surface
Keep humidity around or slightly above 50% by misting one to two times a day
Younger geckos drink from misted water droplets but should also be provided a water bowl
Older geckos will readily drink from a bowl

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Housing

Arboreal, provide an enclosure with ample height

A suitable tank size for one adult crested gecko is a 20 gallon high tank (24in x 12in x 16in)

Provide branches and foliage for climbing and for visual security

Artificial plants are easily disinfected and don't require watering, while live plants provide a natural feel and aids in maintaining humidity

A short, tight hiding place on the cage floor is also recommended

Hide boxes with sphagnum mosses, peat moss, or coconut fiber inside of the hide provide higher humidity and facilitates shedding

Provide fresh water and food in small, shallow dishes at all times.

Handling

One of the easiest geckos to handle

Some can initially be flighty, but calm with brief handling periods

Tame using a 'hand to hand' walk -let the gecko jump or walk from one hand to another when handling, rather than trying to restrain

Crested geckos are more likely to leap than run, so use care over hard floors to prevent injuries

Very young animals, under three months, should be handled very little, if at all



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Lone Mountain Animal Hospital is a full service facility that has been providing pets with the finest professional health care for over 20 years. We offer comprehensive examinations and consultations, along with preventive treatments, surgical & dental procedures, radiology & ultrasound, and laser surgery. We also offer an in-house laboratory to produce the fastest results possible. At Lone Mountain Animal Hospital we see dogs and cats, as well as a long list of exotics including: reptiles, birds, potbelly pigs, rodents, and more! Please visit us online at LMAH.net or call 702-645-3116 to schedule an appointment.