CRESTED GECKO





Crested geckos' docile personalities and easy-care requirements make them ideal reptiles for beginners. They are primarily tree dwellers, and can thrive for several years in a naturalistic terrarium. These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research, and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

TANK SET UP

For crested geckos, a 10 gallon terrarium for babies, and a 20 gallon high tank for adults is ideal. Screen tops are a must to provide adequate ventilation. A glass terrarium with a screen top is better than a fully screened enclosure, as it encourages the proper humidity.

SUBSTRATE

Crested geckos spend the majority of their time above ground, so a variety of substrates will work well. Reptile carpet is easy to clean and leaves no chance of ingesting unwanted substances, but does not maintain adequate humidity levels. Peat moss-based soil mixture or coco fiber mixed with Eco-earth are both a good choice. The peat moss mixture will also be beneficial for any live plants, such as Ficus and Pothos, planted in the terrarium.

TEMPERATURE

Crested geckos do well with temperatures between 76 – 82° F during the day, and into the low to mid 70's at night. If the room is very cool, use a ceramic heat emitter or low wattage incandescent bulb to achieve these temperatures. Do not put a basking bulb on crested geckos, as they will overheat.

LIGHTING

Crested geckos are nocturnal, and will spend most of the day hours hiding and sleeping. They do not need UVB bulbs or basking bulbs, as they are nocturnal and do not bask. However, they do need day light and the proper temperature gradient. Use a low watt incandescent or florescent bulb to achieve the proper light and heat.

HUMIDITY

Humidity should be kept between 55% and 70%. A shallow water dish should be available at all times. If the room does not have a humidifier, misting the dry areas of the tank twice a day will help keep the humidity at an acceptable level.

FEEDING

Crested geckos will thrive on powdered crested gecko food, along with supplemental live insects. Crickets,coated with calcium powder, may be offered two to three times per week.

ACCESSORIES

As crested geckos climb and hide, plants, cork, and vines make ideal accessories to their habitats. Be careful not to over-crowd the tank.

Developed in partnership with The Ontario County Humane Society