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## Crested gecko



Adequate temperature		
	Hot spot	Cold spot
Day temperature	28 °C	23 °C
Night temperature	23 °C	18 °C

### Main Features :

The Crested Gecko is a wonderful reptilian companion. Its small size, docile temperament and uncomplicated maintenance, it climbs the popularity ladder of reptiles. This gecko is also capable of autotomy, that is to say, he has the ability to cut his tail if he is in danger. This feature allows the animal to flee at the same time if a predator catches it by the tail or distracts the tail by abandoning its tail, to create a diversion to escape. The crested gecko has no eyelids; it is with his tongue that he moistens his cornea. The life expectancy of the Crested Gecko is about 10 to 15 years and its adult size varies between 20 and 25 cm.

### Captivity:

The Crested Gecko's habitat must be at least 45 cm x 45 cm x 45 cm and have a cover, a heating system and a lighting system emitting ultraviolet rays. The crested gecko likes to climb. It is therefore necessary to provide several strong branches and foliage, where it can climb at will. This gecko likes to drink its water from droplets falling on the leaves. The addition of a "FOGGER" water vaporizer is strongly advised or essential to obtain optimal living conditions for your gecko. Spraying the leaves 2 to 3 times a day will allow it to have a sufficient amount of water. High humidity (65-75%) and temperature (see table above) should be carefully monitored to maintain the health of your gecko. To maintain the proper temperature, heating mat, out of reach of the animal, can be used as well as a heat lamp not accessible for the latter. The carpet must be installed under the terrarium to avoid any direct contact. If the animal has access to the heating source, the risk of burns is very high. A reptile does not feel the heat on its skin, it is only once it is too late that it feels the wound. The Crested Gecko does not need a strong UVA-UVB lamp, a small one will do just fine! This lamp must work 12 hours a day and be changed every 6 months to maintain its effectiveness! At night this lamp must be off for 12 hours, unlike the heat lamp that must work all day. In order to better control the time of exposure to UV light, the degree of humidity and to maintain an adequate temperature, it is strongly recommended to obtain a thermometer and a hygrometer to better control the variants. The ideal is to get a thermostat that will regulate the temperature and humidity as well as a timer to better control the UV lighting time, but it is important to make sure that it always works, even after several years! The recommended substrate for a Crested



Gecko must retain moisture. The use of Aspen, sphagnum moss or chips is recommended. A gravel or sand substrate is not recommended because of the risk of the animal ingesting this product, which can cause intestinal blockage, even if it is mainly in height.

### **Food :**

The crested gecko is an omnivore, but more specifically insectivore and frugivore. They eat insects (silkworms, mealworms, locusts, etc.) as well as fruits (papaya, mango, nectar, etc.). There is a powder for sale in specialized reptile pet shops called "Crested". Gecko Diet ". This powder must be mixed with water to obtain a purée. On can also offer him fruit flies.



### **Frequent health problems:**

- **Metabolic Bone Disease:** The lizard may suffer from anorexia, tremors, swelling around the bones, and lethargy or bone malformations due to old fractures.
- **Infections:** Infections can occur in the mouth (stomatitis), on the skin (bacterial or fungal) or in the form of abscess. This condition is often the cause of poor nutrition, excess moisture or poor hygiene.
- **Parasites:** A lizard can sometimes catch parasites in many ways, such as having been outside, being in a boarding house or pet store or coming from their live food (mice, insects, etc.). If the animal is not treated following the appearance of parasites, it could become anemic and die. Parasites feed on your pet's blood, where they can find the nutrients they need for survival.
- **Moult problem:** A reptile moults several times a year. The moult consists of a change of skin. The animal grows up and the scales become too tight on it. He develops new scales and the old ones have to leave. A moult problem occurs when the degree of humidity is not adequate. If your pet has difficulty moulting, do not pull on the molt. Give it a bath of lukewarm water instead.
- **Cloacal Prolapse:** A cloacal prolapse is an externalization of part of the digestive system of your reptile. It is therefore possible to see part of the intestine of your reptile out its cloaca (opening that connects the anus and the reproductive system).

As with all animals, it is recommended that an examination be conducted after the purchase of a new reptile and an annual check is required. The annual exam helps prevent health problems that may occur and thus save the life of your pet. If in doubt, a visit to the veterinarian is required! A reptile, whatever it is, will hide its symptoms so as not to become an easy prey for predators (humans). At the slightest change in behavior, contact your veterinarian.

