

Crested gecko

Correlophus ciliatus

🇫🇷 Gecko à crête 🇩🇪 Kronengecko



REGULATIONS

Not CITES-listed

OPAn: minimum standards for arboreal geckos (vertical space, hides, humidity). Individual housing acceptable; keep basic records.



LIFESPAN

15–20 years



ADULT WEIGHT

35–45 g



ADULT SIZE

18–20 cm



LIFESTYLE

Semi-arboreal,
nocturnal / crepuscular



BODY TEMPERATURE

Ectothermic /
poikilothermic



SEXUAL MATURITY

10–18 months



INCUBATION

60–90 days



LITTER / CLUTCH SIZE

2–2 eggs



Habitat & environment

Type — Humid tropical terrarium made of glass or plexiglass (easy-to-clean, heat-retaining materials). Ventilation on each side of the terrarium is essential.

Substrate — Sandmat Exoterra®, kitchen paper, newspaper. Substrates that can be ingested (sand, soil, or those used for the humid hide) carry a risk of intestinal impaction: use only with certain precautions.



Equipment

- Climbing branches
- Live plants (Phyllostachys, etc.)
- Several hides on the warm and cool sides
- Humid hide (sphagnum, vermiculite or a damp sponge) to aid shedding
- Shallow water dish, large enough for bathing
- Daily misting



To avoid

- Heating plates
- Hot rocks
- Heat mats inside the terrarium
- Lamps too close to the animal and unprotected (risk of burns)



Technical parameters



Hot spot

30–32 °C



Cool spot

20–25 °C

Also the night temperature



Humidity

60–80 %



Lighting



Photoperiod — 12 h cycle



UVB need — Beneficial



Recommended brands — X-Reptile · Reptile Expert · Solar Raptor · Arcadia



Replacement — Every 6 months

Crested geckos are crepuscular, so in the wild they are also exposed to UVB. However, unlike bearded dragons for example, they can absorb calcium given as a dietary supplement without UVB radiation. With regular calcium intake, UVB is therefore not considered vital compared with some other lizard species; it is nonetheless appreciated, improves calcium absorption and best reproduces the gecko's natural environment.

 UVB does not pass through glass or plexiglass. Place the lamp inside the terrarium, under a protective grille.

Behaviour

Semi-arboreal, nocturnal, excellent jumper. Crepuscular.

 **Social life** — Solitary. Males must not be housed together. Female groups possible with adequate space.

 **Activity cycle** — Active at night, climbs and jumps.

Enrichment

- Variety of branches and climbing supports
- Hunting live insects
- Daily misting

Nutrition

Frugivore and insectivore. Rehydrated complete-diet powder (Repashy, Pangea, Arcadia, Zoo Med, Black Panther Zoological (BPZ), Komodo Complete Diet) or organic fruit purées. Insects are offered 1–2× per week maximum.

Daily base

 Cricket

 Locust

 Roach

 Silkworm

Fruit

As an occasional supplement when a complete powder is used as the base diet. Offer as a smooth purée, very small portions, <5–10% of the weekly intake.

 Banana **Ca/P 0.3**

 Fig **Ca/P 2.1**

 Blueberry **Ca/P 0.7**

 Mango **Ca/P 0.5**

 Pear **Ca/P 0.6**

 Raspberry **Ca/P 1**

 Papaya **Ca/P 0.8**

 Melon **Ca/P 0.6** **Vit A**

 Guava **Ca/P 1.1**

Supplements

Dust calcium powder onto the food 2–3× per week.

Gut-load the insects with a food rich in calcium/vitamins.

Treats (occasional)

Occasional treats.

 Mealworm

Very fatty, in moderation.

CALCIUM/PHOSPHORUS RATIO (CA/P)

Key indicator of a food's mineral balance, especially in reptiles: a calcium-favoured ratio supports bone and shell strength. Targets: ≥ 2 = balanced · $1-2$ = in moderation · < 1 = avoid (encourages metabolic bone disease). For insects, a calcium powder at feeding time offsets an unfavourable ratio.

TO AVOID

 Avocado
Toxic.

 Rhubarb
Toxic.

 Star Fruit
Toxic.

 Lemon
Citrus, too acidic.

 Kiwi
Excess vitamin C.

 Pineapple
Too acidic.

 Grapefruit
Citrus, too acidic.

 Orange
Citrus, too acidic.

 Grape
Too high in sugar.



Health & prevention

Preventive medicine

Recommended calcium/phosphorus ratio of 2:1. Monitor calcium intake. Annual check-up.



WARNING SIGNS

- Floppy tail syndrome
- Tremors (calcium deficiency)
- Shedding problems (dysecdysis)
- Open mouth
- Lethargy
- Nutritional osteodystrophy

If any of these symptoms appear, prompt veterinary care is essential.
Contact an exotic-pet vet as soon as possible.



Common conditions

Nutritional osteodystrophy

SYMPTOMS Deformities, tremors, rubber jaw

CAUSE Calcium deficiency or unsuitable Ca/P ratio

PREVENTION Regular supplementation, Ca/P ratio > 2:1



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