



# THE JOKERGECKOS CARESHEET

## Housing

Good housing ensures that the crested gecko feels comfortable and that the crested gecko remains healthy. Prevent illness and unnecessary stress by providing the right environment.

### The terrarium

Suitable terrariums are terrariums with a mesh top and ventilation at the front (such as the Exo terra terrariums), glass terrariums with a lot of ventilation (wide top strip + ventilation at the front) and acrylic terrariums. A mesh terrarium is not very suitable, as it is difficult to maintain proper humidity in it.

Crested geckos love to climb and are tree dwellers. Give the gecko sufficient climbing opportunities in the terrarium (think of placing branches). Geckos also like to have many hiding places in the terrarium. You can use hollow bark tunnels or shelters for this. A baby gecko can be kept a little smaller at first. As they grow older and gain weight, the gecko will also need to be housed in a larger home. See the diagram below.

Weight	Housing
1 tot 5 grams	20cm x 20cm x 20cm
6 tot 10 grams	20cm x 20cm x 30cm
11 tot 20 grams	30cm x 30cm x 45cm
21 tot 30 grams	30cm x 30cm x 60cm
31 tot 40 grams	45cm x 45cm x 45cm
40 gram +	45cm x 45cm x 60cm or bigger

This diagram above provides **an indication**. Of course, every animal is different, so it is better for some animals to be housed a little smaller or larger.

PLEASE NOTE: CRESTED GECKOS ARE SOLITARY ANIMALS IN NATURE. THEY JUST SEE EACH OTHER TO REPRODUCE/BREED AND THEN GO THEIR OWN PATHS AGAIN. NEVER PLACE CRESTED GECKOS TOGETHER IN A TERRARIUM. THIS WILL BE EXPLAINED MORE LATER ON IN THE CARESHEET.

## Design

The best way to set up a terrarium is to imitate the natural environment as much as possible. Crested geckos live in New Caledonia, where there is a colder tropical climate. Bioactive or semi-bioactive terrariums are therefore highly recommended, as living plants help to simulate the tropical climate. There is a video on our YouTube channel showing how you can make this. Below we give a brief description of how we make a terrarium bioactive.

### Soil

The bottom consists of 3 layers:

- Layer 1: hydro granules or dendroplate
- Layer 2: Root cloth
- Layer 3: Jungle bedding

### Isopods and springtails:

When the soil is ready you can add tropical isopods and springtails to the soil. They are the cleaning crew of the terrarium and keep the soil vital. To help the isopods get started, you can add some fish food, sepiä, dry leaves or spagnum moss to the soil. This helps get the colony started.

### Plants

If you want to place real plants in the terrarium, the following plants are very suitable: ferns, monstera, bromelia, calathea, spathiphyllum epipremnum, dracaena and chamaedorea palms, sansevierias. If you are unsure whether a plant is poisonous, you can always easily look it up on Google by entering the search term: plant name + poisonous + question mark. If you would like to add some fake plants in the background, for example, that is always a good plan. Crested geckos also like hanging shelters. For example, you can hang a hollow coconut or woven shelters.

### Mosbox

If you do not use a bioactive terrarium, it is important to provide the gecko with a moss box. The gecko can hydrate itself in this before shedding or lay eggs in it. A moss box is a plastic box with a hole in it. Place moist spagnum moss in the moss box.

### Background

Crested geckos like to have a background in their terrarium. This gives the animal more peace and a safe feeling. As a background you can use the Exo terra back walls, make your own back wall or use a poster with a beautiful image on it. It is also good to cover the sides of the terrarium with translucent window film. This way, the crested gecko is not bothered by its neighbors (in case there are several geckos next to each other in terrariums) or by the movements in its immediate environment.



## Light

To give the crested gecko a clear day and night rhythm, it is important that the crested gecko has lighting above its terrarium. Crested geckos are active in dusk. This means that they are most active at sunrise and sunset. During the day, geckos usually sleep.

### LED/UVB/HEATING

When you use an LED strip (6500 Kelvin), it is good to be aware that it does not emit heat and does not emit UVB. It is then important to powder insect feeders with Sticky tongue indoor (yellow can). You can also regularly mix this with the fruit food of the crested gecko. Geckos may not be active during the day, but that does not mean that they do not need UVB at all. Geckos can absorb UVB efficiently. If you choose a UVB lamp, it is a good idea to choose one with a low intensity. It is also important to place this lighting outside the terrarium. Finally, it is important that the gecko cannot sleep directly under the UVB lamp, as this can lead to serious burns. Do not place a UVB lamp on glass (UVB cannot penetrate glass).

Crested geckos do not need a heat lamp or heat mat. Do not place this in the terrarium, because the gecko can seriously burn itself. The use of night lighting is also not necessary, as this disrupts their day and night rhythm and releases heat where it should not at night.

## Temperature and humidity

New Caledonia has a tropical climate influenced by the surrounding sea. This place only has 2 real seasons; the rainy season (summer) and the drier season (winter). In summer, temperatures rise to 30°C during the day and up to 21°C at night. During the drier winter season it still rains, but with lower frequency and intensity. Temperatures vary between 24°C and 18°C during this period.

<b>Humidity</b>	60-80%  A peak in humidity in the morning and/or in the evening. The terrarium is allowed to dry out during the day.  Please note: Do not spray or spray less at warm temperatures to prevent shortness of breath. Provide a bowl of fresh water at all times.
<b>Temperature</b>	Keep the temperature between 18-27 degrees Celsius.  Will it be colder than 18 degrees? -> then you can choose to heat the room with, for example, an electric heater.  Will it be warmer than 27 degrees? -> Spray as little as possible to prevent shortness of breath. Provide a water bowl with fresh drinking water at all times. Cool the terrarium by turning off the lights. If necessary, place a mobile air conditioner or fan in the room. Keep the heat out by closing windows/shutters/curtains during the day.



## Care

Geckos eat crested gecko food every other day. In addition, they can be fed once a week with live insects. Keep in mind that the ratio of crested gecko diet should be approximately 80% to live insects (approximately 20% of the total diet).

### Crested gecko food

There are many different brands and flavors available. This food comes in powder form and must be mixed with some water. You want the food to be about as thick as ketchup. Suitable brands: Pangea and Sweet reptiles.

PANGEA	Gecko Nutrition
Imported from America.	Produced in Germany
Not every flavor contains insects. So you have to match and mix.	Every flavor contains insects
Artificial additives	Artificial additives
Shelf life slightly longer after mixing	Shelf life slightly longer after mixing
Immediately gets the right thickness when mixed.	It thickens some more after a few minutes.
Good food response	Good food response
More expensive	Cheaper, especially for bulk packages.
Special formula for breeder geckos. (grey bag)	No special formula for breeder geckos.

Of course there are many more brands available that are suitable! You can offer this food fresh to the gecko every other day. So for example on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

### Insects

You can offer live insects to geckos once or twice a week, on a day when you are not feeding the geckopaste. You can feed Crested Geckos crickets, silkworms, redrunners or dubias. We consciously choose dubias and silkworms. It is important to powder the insects with calcium before feeding them to the gecko. If you do not use a UVB lamp, you can use Sticky tongue indoor (the yellow can). If you use a UVB lamp, you can use Sticky tongue outdoor (the red can). What's great about Sticky tongue is that you cannot over-dose with this product. Before feeding the insects to your gecko, you can feed them with healthy fruits and vegetables. This is also called Gutloading. This way, the geckos can benefit from extra vitamins. If you do not want to offer fresh vegetables or fruit, Pangea has found an alternative: Pangea Insect Grub. This is a powder that you prepare with boiling water. It then becomes a jelly-like gel that you can cut into pieces and feed to your insects. Below we list the advantages and disadvantages of the different insects.

Dubias	Crickets	Redrunners	Silkworms
Slightly more expensive to purchase, but easier to grow yourself. Eat fruit, vegetables or kibble. Not pest-producing when they escape. Lower escaping risk. Don't smell. Make no sound. Are very nutritious. Only breed from 35 degrees. When you breed them you need a heating mat to keep them at the right temperature.	Cheap to purchase. More difficult to grow yourself. Plague-forming when they escape. Escaping risk. Have a smell. Make noise. Not that nutritious Parasite sensitive.	Slightly more expensive to purchase, easy to grow your own fresh fruit and vegetables. Plague-forming when they escape. High escape risk. Eating fresh fruit attracts fruit flies Make no sound. Are very nutritious. If there is any surplus, they can be mixed in the blender and added to the gecko food.	Expensive to purchase, more difficult to breed. Must always have fresh food. Not pest-forming. No escaping risk. No smell. Make no sound. Are very nutritious. More difficult to obtain, stock is often limited.

## Water

Geckos drink water by licking water droplets from leaves or the glass. To get them to drink, spray water into your terrarium and wet the leaves once a day. You can use osmosis water or tap water for this. The advantage of osmosis water is that you do not get limescale on the windows. This saves a lot of cleaning work. Because they are active at dusk/night, it is best to spray in the morning or before going to bed. In addition to the spray water, always provide a water bowl with tap water. Always make sure that this drinking bowl is clean and that the water is fresh! Bacteria and algae can grow quickly in stagnant water. If the gecko has pooped in the water bowl, it is advisable to thoroughly disinfect this bowl before putting it back.

## Co-housing crested geckos

We are often asked whether crested geckos can be kept together in a large terrarium. The firm answer to this is: NO! Unfortunately, too often within the hobby it is claimed that this is possible. Breeders who proclaim this, only do so because it lowers the customer's threshold for purchase. It is cheaper to just purchase the gecko yourself. Terrariums are not cheap. However, the welfare of the gecko itself is lost sight of. We therefore do not sell animals to people who want to place their animals together or want them to live in a group.

These are our compelling arguments for this:

1. In nature, crested geckos live alone. They are solitary animals. They only visit each other briefly for mating. Then they go their separate ways again.
2. The young are not cared for by the parents. When they are born, they are immediately independent and know exactly how to survive in nature. When parents encounter the young, they will mistake them for an insect and eat their own young. This can also happen in captivity if eggs are not found in time by the breeder.
3. When young are just born, they immediately go their own way. Young from the same clutch do not stay together. That is why all animals with us have their own enclosure from day one.
4. When you put two males together, they will fight and injure each other.
5. When you put females together, they experience extra stress and have food competition with each other. The strongest female gets the most food. The weakest female is automatically the least. In addition, there is a chance that things seem to be going well for a while, but fights break out later. The geckos can injure each other. These injuries can then lead to infections or other problems.
6. If you keep a male and a female together, you will have babies. The male will continue to chase the female to mate. This can cause the male to lose a lot of weight and eat worse. The hunting male also gives the female insufficient rest to get through the already difficult breeding season without too much weight loss.
7. Crested Geckos do not experience deeply human emotions such as loneliness. We must remember that they are reptiles and not humans.
8. Sometimes geckos that are housed together will huddle close together. When we humanize this, we quickly think: 'Ahh how cute, they are friends with each other.' However, that is absolutely not the case. Crested geckos are not social animals that socialize with each other. They look for the best spot within the terrarium. If another gecko happens to be lying there too, it seems like a pleasant scene. But in reality it is a stressful situation in which the geckos are forced to learn to tolerate each other.



## Crested gecko breeding

Let's think this over! In other words: Think carefully about whether you really want to start this. The market is very saturated, which makes selling a 'normal crested gecko' not that easy. Also remember that all offspring need their own terrarium and that there are often a lot of start-up costs involved. It is wise to first gain experience with the species. Know how they behave, how they react to certain things, how to monitor their health, etc. Breeding is not as easy as it seems. It's expensive, takes a lot of time and above all: it's a hard world. Avoid producing "low-end" offspring by pairing two completely random animals. This will result in cheap animals on the market that are hard to sell, impulse purchases and ultimately neglected animals. We don't want animals to suffer!

Also it is important to know that if you want to breed crested geckos and sell the offspring to others than friends and family in the Netherlands, you must be in the possession of a valid certificate with which you can apply for a UBN-number. In Belgium and Germany you also need a certificate to breed and sell. Our advise is to check out what papers you need in your country to breed with Crested geckos.



## Essential DO'S & DON'TS

DO'S	DON'TS
<p>Place the terrarium in a quiet place where no other pets such as cats have access.</p> <p>Leave your gecko alone in the first few weeks so that he can easily get used to his new environment.</p> <p>Give each gecko its own enclosure.</p> <p>Feed your gecko insects in addition to the regular crested gecko food. Offer wax moth larvae once a month as a tasty snack. The gecko food is ketchup thick.</p> <p>Make fruit smoothie with sweet fruits such as papaya, watermelon, strawberry, raspberry, blueberry and banana. Offer as a snack no more than once a month. You can add organic honey to make it a little sweeter and increase the food response. You also naturally add the sticky tongue powder to your mixture. You can freeze fruit. For additional explanation, see also the video on YouTube: Making Jokergeckos fruit smoothie)</p> <p>Use osmosis water for spraying. Simply water plants once a week with a watering can of tap water.</p> <p>Always give the gecko the opportunity to drink from a water bowl with fresh tap water.</p> <p>Use a ledge with room for food and drinking water cups.</p> <p>Powder insects with calcium. If you use UVB: Sticky tongue outdoor (red can) No UVB then: Sticky tongue indoor (yellow bus)</p> <p>Gut loading insects with fresh vegetables/fruit or with Pangea insect Grub</p> <p>Learn more about geckos before breeding them and find out what official papers are needed in your country to breed and sell.</p>	<p>Place the terrarium in direct sunlight behind glass.</p> <p>Place the terrarium in a busy place where there is a lot of walking back and forth or where other pets such as cats/dogs come.</p> <p>Housing geckos together because things seem to be going well.</p> <p>Feed fruit jelly cups to your eyelash gecko.</p> <p>Frequently offer wax moth larvae.</p> <p>Make up gecko food too thin.</p> <p>Feed citrus fruits or baby food.</p> <p>Spraying with tap water (a lot of limescale on the windows and therefore a lot of cleaning work)</p> <p>Do not change drinking water as bacteria can grow in it.</p> <p>Leaving dirty drinking water with feces in it.</p> <p>Offer insects unpowdered.</p> <p>Offer dead insects.</p> <p>Poor hygiene in your insect box.</p> <p>Start with breeding crested geckos impulsively.</p>

## Diseases

### To weigh is to know

A healthy gecko eats and poops well. This is not always immediately visible, especially in small animals. It is therefore good to weigh the animal every month and keep track of this in an overview. This way you can see if your animal is growing. Sometimes it seems as if the food bowl is untouched, but remember that a baby gecko has a very small stomach and therefore usually only needs a few licks.

### Reptile veterinary

Search Google for a reptile vet in your area. This is always useful to know in advance. Suppose your gecko behaves differently than you are used to, it is nice that you know in advance where you can take the animal.

### Diseases

Crested geckos are strong and resilient animals if provided with the right care. However, diseases and defects also occur in crested geckos. Consider, for example: infections, MBD (hereditary disorder), calcium deficiencies, parasites such as cryptosporidium and worms. If you suspect any of the above, always consult your reptile vet.

### Quarantine period for new animals

When you add an animal to your collection, it is possible to have a reptile doctor carry out a preventive manure examination for parasites. This is important, because one sick animal can contaminate the entire collection and even make it terminally ill. It is therefore important to always give new animals a quarantine period of a few months. This means that the new animal is not allowed to come into the immediate vicinity of another animal.

Some useful tips:

- Disinfect surfaces where animals come together (for example on a scale).
- Wear gloves and change them when handling another animal.
- Clean each cage with a separate cleaning paper and do not go from terrarium to terrarium with one cloth.
- Place new animals on a paper surface so that you can monitor extra well. (For example: is the poop firm and does the animal poop regularly? Is the animal eating enough?)

### Tail loss

Of course, it can always happen that an crested gecko loses its tail. In general, an gecko does not just let go of its tail, but in some cases it can happen when it gets pinched or experiences a lot of stress. When this happens, it is unfortunate but not detrimental to the breeding or health of the gecko.

Some useful tips for tail loss:

- Temporarily place the animal on a paper surface so that the base of the tail can heal properly. When there is a dry crust, the animal can be returned to its bioactive terrarium.
- Investigate the situation to determine what caused the eyelash gecko to shed his/her tail. There may be something in the terrarium that needs to be adjusted. Environmental factors may also have had an influence. Then try to adjust this so that the animal no longer has to experience stress about this in the future.
- Is the tail not healing properly or do you have doubts? Always consult your reptile vet and ask for advice.