

Brief Description

Gargoyle geckos are small arboreal geckos native to New Caledonia, an island near Australia. They are popular pet lizards, especially for beginners, due to their smaller size (around 8" long) and comparatively easy care requirements. Gargoyle geckos can lose their tails if grabbed by it, or housed with other geckos, but it does regrow to look almost identical to the original tail. They are primarily nocturnal and will hide most of the day. Interestingly gargoyle geckos do not have eyelids so they will lick their eyes to keep them clean and moist.



Lifespan

With proper care expected lifespan is 15-20 years on average.

Sexing

Once your gecko reaches maturity if you look at the underside of the tail just past the vent males will have two bulges side by side where the hemipenes (reproductive organs) sit in the base of the tail. Females will not have this.

Caging

Baby geckos can be kept in 5-10 gallon enclosures as they grow however adults need at least a 20 gallon aquarium. Front opening glass enclosures (minimum size 12x12x18") work particularly well for adult gargoyle geckos as they are arboreal so height is more important than length. Multiple females can sometimes be housed together successfully but males will fight if housed together. One gecko per cage is the general recommendation.

Substrate

Reptile carpet, flat stones or newspaper are best to use at the bottom of the cage. Coco coir +/- sphagnum moss can also be used to create a naturalistic terrarium setup but it's not absolutely necessary. Sand and mulch should be avoided. There should be many plants (fake or real) for hiding as well as branches to climb on.

Lighting and Temperature

Reptiles are ectotherms (cold-blooded), meaning they need to absorb heat from their environment to regulate their own body heat since they cannot produce it. Gargoyle geckos generally thrive at room temperature (**72-78 degrees**) and therefore don't need a heat source. Temperature should never exceed 90 degrees as it could be fatal. A thermometer should be placed in the cage to accurately measure temperature. Night temperatures can safely drop to 60 degrees so a night time heat source is not necessary.

Gargoyle geckos theoretically do not require UVB light, however recent research suggests that they may benefit from low level UVB light. UVB is recommended for babies and breeding females to prevent metabolic bone disease.

Humidity

Humidity in the tank should be 60-70% at all times with spikes up to 80-90% several times a day when the cage is misted. The vents of the cage may need to be at least partially covered to help maintain humidity levels and the use of a humidifier or fogger is highly recommended. Humidity should be monitored by a hygrometer.

Food

The staple of the diet should be a commercial powdered Crested Gecko food. Pangea, Repashy, and Zoomed have several varieties of powdered crested gecko diet available. These are made with quality ingredients that provide the balanced nutrition of a complete diet without additional foods or supplements. It should be offered in a small dish every other day and any uneaten portion removed after 24 hours. Crickets (dusted with calcium and gutloaded) can be offered once or twice a week but are not absolutely necessary. Mealworms should be avoided.

Water

Geckos will readily drink from droplets on plants, branches, and the glass siding after misting the enclosure. A small dish of clean water should be available at all times as well.

Supplementation

A powdered calcium supplement (without phosphorus) should be lightly sprinkled over any insects offered. It is not necessary to use on the powdered complete diets.