

Crocodile Gecko

Tarentola mauritanica



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Crocodile geckos have large pointed heads and skin that is covered with rows of bumps. Like many geckos, crocodiles have specialized scales under their toes that help them climb vertical surfaces and even walk upside down.



Is a crocodile gecko the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

- I have an appropriate location and space for a gecko.
- I want a pet that doesn't need to be cuddled or touched.
- I feel comfortable providing food.
- I can commit to providing proper care for this crocodile gecko.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

If you answered "Yes" to these statements, a crocodile gecko may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a crocodile gecko and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

Average Size 6 inches long

Life Span 8+ years with proper care

Diet Provide a variety of insects, including crickets, small mealworms, and waxworms; provide a multiple vitamin/mineral supplement once or twice a week and calcium daily

Feeding Feed juveniles every day; feed adults every other day; Crickets should be gut-loaded (recently fed) and no larger than half the length of the gecko's head

Housing Due to the varied sizes and growth rates of reptiles, and their individualized needs, we recommend you consult your qualified reptile veterinarian and a book on this species to determine it's specific housing requirements

Size – 10- to 20-gallon tank with a secure lid

Habitat – Provide hiding areas with non-toxic plants, branches, log, and cork; keep hiding areas away from the heat source

Temperature – Temperature gradient of 70° F. to 85° F during the day and 60° F. to 70° F at night; place an undertank heater on one end of the tank

Substrate – Use pelleted, mulch-type, or calcium sand; geckos may eat substrate, if they do, select a substrate they won't eat, like paper or cage carpet, or an edible substrate

Humidity – Maintain humidity in the habitat at 60% or more to promote proper shedding; mist geckos and their environment daily

Lighting – Provide fluorescent light for 10 to 12 hours a day; incandescent bulb is needed for basking area if not using a ceramic heater

Water – Provide a constant supply of clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water in a shallow bowl that cannot be tipped over

Never house two or more males together; do not house different species of reptiles together

Recommended Supplies

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat with secure lid | <input type="checkbox"/> Fluorescent lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity gauge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water/food dishes | <input type="checkbox"/> Incandescent light or ceramic heater | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin/mineral supplement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Heating source | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about geckos | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-toxic plants, branches, log, cork bark | <input type="checkbox"/> Mist bottles |

CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Normal Behavior and Interaction Crocodile geckos are nocturnal and hide under rocks or burrow into the sand during the day
Male crocodile geckos are territorial and aggressive
Become very stressed when handled; only handle when necessary

Habitat Maintenance Change water in the bowl daily
Thoroughly clean the tank at least once a week: set gecko aside in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach; dry the tank and furnishings; and add clean substrate

Grooming and Hygiene Always wash your hands before and after touching your gecko or habitat contents to help prevent *Salmonella* and other infectious diseases

Signs of a Healthy Animal

- Clear eyes
- Eats regularly
- Active and alert
- Clear nose and vent
- Body and tail are rounded and full
- Healthy skin

Common Health Issues

Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Gastro-intestinal Disease	Runny stools, caked or smeared stool around the vent area, and loss of appetite caused by bacterial or parasitic infection.	Consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
Metabolic Bone/Vitamin Deficiency	If untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities and softened bones. Swollen limbs and lethargy.	Consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
Respiratory Disease	Labored breathing, runny nose, swollen eyes. Can be caused by temperatures that are too cold.	Ensure that the habitat is appropriately warm. Consult your exotic animal veterinarian.

Red Flags

- Weight loss or decreased appetite
- Swelling
- Bumps, sores, or abrasions on skin
- Paralysis of limbs or tail
- Mucus in mouth or nose
- Lethargy
- Labored breathing
- Abnormal feces

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.

Sources *Geckoes: Biology, Husbandry, and Reproduction* by Friedrich-Wilhelm Henkel
Keeping and Breeding Geckos by Hermann Seufer

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.