Diego

Species	Crested gecko (Correlophus ciliates)
Habitat	Native to the rainforests of southern New Caledonia. Was once thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in the mid 1990s. Now prevalent.
Care	Diego lives in a tall vivarium that is 2ft high and 1.5foot wide and deep. He loves to climb on his vines, logs, and plant décor.
Food	Diego eats repashy crested gecko food, which is mix of fruits and nutrients to give cresties a balanced, nutrious diet. He's also offered crickets each week.
Characteristics	Diego is able to change colour from orange to brown to green. He has frog-like feet that can cling to any surface and he's very good at jumping. Crested geckos are born with tails but have the ability to lose them. Diego lost his at his previous residence.
Why we love Diego	Diego is awesome. He has the look of an ancient dragon, the jumping skills of a frog and he feels as soft as velvet.

Read Diego's story on the next page…

Diego's story

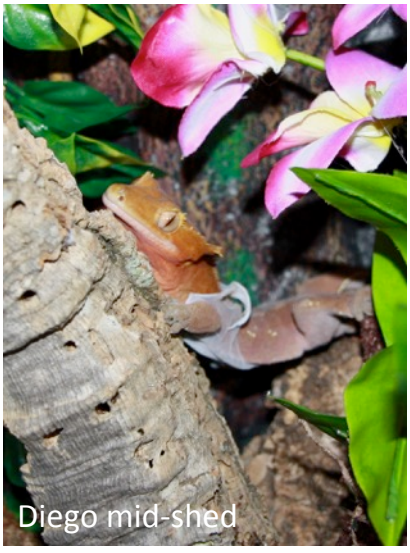
Diego is a little cutie who just loves to climb. He has the look of a prehistoric dragon but in miniature form, as he's no bigger than your hand.

Diego's skin is velvety soft and his feet are very special. They are able to stick to any surface and his toes can curl in either direction to help him stabilize.

Diego was rehomed with Clare in August 2018. His tail was missing. Geckos are able to drop their tails. In the wild, this is a survival technique. If a bird grabbed the gecko's tail, the gecko would leave their tail thrashing in the bird's mouth, enabling them to escape and live another day. In captivity, a gecko can drop their tail if they are scared. Many geckos are able to regrow their tails, but crested geckos can't. However, they can and do live happily without a tail.

Diego is very laidback and friendly – and he loves to jump from your hand to chest. In the wild, crested geckos lives in trees and jump from branch to branch.

Crested geckos are also able to change colour. This is not as pronounced as a chameleon, but Diego will turn from browns to greens to oranges when he feels like it. This is usually based on his mood or the time of day, with paler colours often seen while he is sleeping. He sleeps during the daytime as crested geckos are nocturnal.



Diego mid-shed

Crested geckos also shed their skin, and Diego will do this almost every month. His entire skin comes off in one go and he will eat the old skin afterwards.