



A Crested Gecko Finds His Favorite Food

Emily Casazza



Hello, my name is Ernie, and I'm a Crested Gecko. I may look small, but I'm a whole three days old and I have already learned what my favorite things are!



I love to climb and I feel most at home on high places.



Jumping and leaping is also one of my absolute favorite things to do. I'm really good at it!

The only favorite thing I don't know yet is my favorite food. The volunteers here have offered me some sort of fruity goop, but there has to be something better that the other animals are getting. So today I'm holding interviews on what the other animals like to eat. To be safe, I might sit on a branch since some of the other animals might mistake me for food!





The first one to show up was a Ball Python. She was young just like me, but so much bigger! When I asked what she liked to eat, she said "My absolute favorite thing to eat is rodents! Mice and rats." "Mice and rats? Really? How the heck do you eat those?" I asked. "By swallowing them whole of course. How else does a snake eat? Some of my cousins can even swallow a whole rabbit!"

I couldn't help but wonder how big a snake has to be to swallow a rabbit whole! "Thank you for sharing, but I think rodents are a little too fuzzy for my taste. I could never dream of swallowing one!" and I sent the python on her way.



The next reptile was a slow Box Turtle. Her shell looked so climbable that I couldn't resist jumping from my branch to her back. "Excuse me!" She shouted. "I'm sorry, Mrs. Box Turtle, you just have such a nice shell, I couldn't help myself. Will you still tell me what your favorite food is?" I asked. "Alright, but only because you are so polite. My favorite things to eat are fruits, vegetables, and insects," she replied.





"Carrots, watermelon and meal worms are just a few of the things I enjoy. I prefer a variety in my diet," she explained. "Well, the fruit sure does smell nice, but I wouldn't be able to bite into it like you do. Thank you for coming, anyways." And I sent the turtle on her way.



My next guest was actually smaller than me! It was a little Carrot-Tailed Viper Gecko. Don't let the name fool you, they are nothing like snakes at all. He was really shy, so I climbed off my branch to talk to him.

"So what's your favorite food?" I asked.

"Well...I like crickets," he said.

"That's it? Just crickets?" I asked.

"You heard me right, just crickets."



"As long as they are the right size, there is nothing more fun than chasing them around and eating them up!" he explained.

"That does sound like fun! And I bet they wouldn't be very hard to chew either. Still, I feel like there's something missing. Thanks for coming." And I sent the tiny gecko away.

My final guest was none other than my own Mommy. I was a little embarrassed that I didn't ask her from the beginning what Crested Geckos like to eat, but now that she was here, she had me climb on her back while she explained what it is I would like to eat.



"You see, my dear, Crested Geckos and their cousins love insects like crickets and meal worms, but they also need a nutritious liquid diet." She began.



"In the wild, we eat fruit that has become very soft, so the volunteers blend up fruit for us and add in the essential vitamins we need." Boy did I feel silly. That goop left in my house was what I needed all along!



Now that I know what kind of food I should be eating, there's nothing left to do but try it!

The End

