

# FANTASY RACES UNLOCKED!



**BY CHRISTINA STILES** 



### CREATED AND APPROVED FOR USE WITH

CASTLES & CRUSADES ®

# FANTASY RACES UNLOCKED: KOBOLDS

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Dedicated to Libbie Ann

"Though she be but little, she is fierce!" ~ Shakespeare

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# FANTASY RACES UNLOCKED: KOBOLDS

#### BY CHRISTINA STILES

#### WHAT ARE FANTASY RACES UNLOCKED?

Many races have received short shrift over the years, while elves, dwarves, gnomes, halflings, half-elves, and half-orcs have hogged the player spotlight. Well no more! Fantasy Races Unlocked provides alternate races for Castles & CrusadesTM players. In addition to the standard race traits generally offered, however, these pdfs provide alter racial trait options, allowing the players to personalize their characters, making them slightly different than the run-of-the-mill version of the presented race.

#### **KOBOLDS**

Kobolds are short, scaly, reptilian humanoids with tails who favor underground habitats, deep forests, and tangled swamps. Kobolds claim a draconic heritage, and believe themselves destined to be rulers of their realms. However, they do not possess the might of their dragon cousins, and so rely on their cleverness to ambush foes and destroy their ranks with insidious traps. Once the foe has been decimated, the kobolds swarm them in large numbers, taking them out or capturing them—depending on whether or not they need food or slaves at the moment.

Kobolds are avid miners who build vast tunnel systems beneath the earth to support their expanding nests. Kobolds often trade minerals with other underground races for weapons, which they are not skilled at crafting.

**DESCRIPTION:** Kobolds are small, bipedal reptilian humanoids with tails, hands and feet ending in claws, and a teeth-filled maw. Most kobolds stand around 3 feet tall and weigh about 35 pounds. Their coloration varies, even in the same tribes and among clutch siblings, but their thick hides most often mimic the colors of the chromatic dragons. Therefore, red, white, green, blue, and black kobolds are the colors encountered, with shades of red being the most common. A few kobolds, however, have more exotic colors such as orange or yellow, which in some tribes raises or lowers an individual's status in the eyes of his fellows.

**SOCIETY:** Kobolds live in dark areas, preferring to reside far from the sunlight. The most often inhabit underground warrens, though some make their homes above ground in trees or brush; some even build small structures like yurts. Kobolds live in family groups that often split up after reaching numbers of 40 or more. This occurs quite often, as kobolds breed very quickly. Kobold females lay clutches of up to 10 eggs, six times a year. However, female kobolds are rare, comprising no more than 10% of any kobold population, and the mortality rates of young kobolds are very high. Kobolds are staunchly protective of their few females, and will fight to the death for them. Female kobolds are often leaders of their families and clans.

**PERSONALITY:** Kobolds, not being very strong or bulky, have had to rely on their intelligence to get by. Thus, they are clever schemers by nature. They study opponents to find



their weaknesses, and then utilize those against them. A rare few kobolds would attack opponents outright, as it is not within their nature. Unless they have the upper hand with vast numbers, they prefer to attack from concealment or whittle down an opponent's numbers with their traps. They harry and beat their enemies before swarming in for the kill.

**RACIAL AFFINITIES:** Kobolds hate most other races, but they most especially hate dwarves, with whom they fight for territory and resources within the caverns they live in. Kobolds likewise despise gnomes for similar reasons, but at least find them a good food source. Kobolds view elves as lesser, weaker creatures to their drow kin, and though they dislike the fey-like beings, the kobolds do not generally fear the elves, nor do they

### FANTASY RACES UNLOCKED: KOBOLDS 3

often compete with them—the elves preferring sunnier forested areas. Half-elves are rare in their preferred territories, so they do not have a stance on them. The reptilians view the fearless halflings as capable creatures, and tend to avoid them when possible, for the tenacious creatures will track the kobolds to the end of the earth if riled up. Kobolds fear the powerful half-orcs, who display their orc heritage's disposition and often attempt to subjugate the kobolds. Kobolds find humans to be pests who transgress where they are not wanted.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Kobolds often live below the earth in vast caverns. Their lairs can stretch for miles under mountain chains, where they mine for ore, silver, and precious gems. Additionally, they are often found in deep, dark forests and tangled swamps.

Racial Traits and Abilities (Standard)

**DARKVISION:** In a similar manner to dwarves, kobolds can see in complete darkness for up to 60 feet. Darkvision produces images that are in shades of gray, but is otherwise like normal sight. Kobolds can function well with no light at all. Bright lights, such as from a lantern or other light source, spoil darkvision. A kobold requires one turn to adjust his or her eyes when a light source is extinguished before gaining full use of darkvision.

**ENHANCED SENSES:** Kobolds can see and hear very well. They receive +2 to all checks involving sight (in darkness) and hearing.

**LIGHT SENSITIVITY:** Kobolds suffer a -1 to all attacks made in bright light.

**MOVE SILENTLY** (Dexterity): Kobolds can move silently in wilderness and underground areas. The kobold can move up to one-half normal speed at no penalty. At more than one-half, and up to the character's full speed, the character suffers a -5 penalty to the check. It's practically impossible (-20 penalty) to move silently while running or charging.

**TOUGH HIDE:** Kobolds have tough scales, which grant them a +1 AC bonus.

**TRAPS** (Wisdom): Kobolds are masters of crafting traps in wilderness and underground settings, and always have traps as an ability, whether or not they are rangers. Additionally, in regard to these types of traps, kobolds always roll their checks as if wisdom was a primary attribute, whether or not it is for the character.

A kobold is able to detect and build simple traps in natural settings. When passing within 25 feet of a wilderness trap, a kobold is entitled to an attribute check to spot it. When actively searching for traps, the kobold receives a +2 bonus to the check. It takes one round to locate a trap in a 5-foot by 5-foot area, or one turn spent searching to locate a trap in a 25-foot by 25-foot area. A kobold cannot find magical traps with this ability.

A kobold can set simple traps in a wilderness or underground area. These include snares, pit traps, and similar devices. Kobolds cannot set complicated mechanical traps such as those found on treasure chests or on doorways, though many of them train as rogues, and are thus able to learn to do so. On a successful traps check, the kobold successfully builds and conceals a snare or pit trap. Snares can capture and hold creatures of up to medium height, and pit traps can be dug to deliver 1d4 points of damage (halved if the falling creature makes a successful dexterity saving throw). Kobolds can also disable simple wilderness traps with little or no effort. No traps check need to be made to do this.

#### LANGUAGES: Draconic

SIZE: Small

**MOVEMENT:** 30 feet

**TYPICAL CLASSES:** Assassin, Druid, Illusionist, Ranger, Rogue

**ATTRIBUTE MODIFIERS:** +1 Dexterity, +1 Wisdom, -2 Strength

**RANGER MODIFIER**: +2 move silently, +2 find traps

**ROGUE AND ASSASSIN MODIFIER:** +2 listen; +2 move silently; +2 find traps in natural settings

#### **OPTIONAL:** Alternate Racial Traits

If your Castle Keeper allows, you may select one of the following alternate racial traits in place of one or more of the standard racial traits above.

**Daywalker:** You can tolerate bright lights, but you do not see as well as your kin in darkness. You have twilight vision instead of darkvision. This racial trait replaces light sensitivity and darkvision.

**Biter:** You are gifted with a powerful maw of sharp teeth and a strong jaw. You can make a bite attack that deals 1d4 points of damage rather than attacking with weapons. This racial trait replaces the tough hide racial trait.

**Breather:** You have a strong draconic heritage. Once per day, you can expel a breath attack that deals 1d6 points of damage. The damage type depends on your kobold's coloring: acid for black or green; electricity for blue; fire for red; cold for white. This racial trait replaces the tough hide racial trait.

**Glider:** You have a set of wings, but you are unable to truly fly. However, you can glide from surfaces at a slow pace, moving 5 feet laterally for every 15 feet you fall. On a CL 15 dexterity check, you can fall safely from any height without taking falling damage. This racial trait replaces traps.

**Opportunist:** If given one round to study an opponent in combat, you gain a +1 attack bonus against that opponent for the duration of the battle. This racial trait replaces traps.

**Tail Slapper:** You can attack opponents with your tail rather than a weapon, doing 1d4 points of damage. This racial trait replaces the tough hide racial trait.

## 4 CASTLES & CRUSADES