

Veiled Chameleon

Veiled Chameleons are among the most popular chameleon species kept as pets. This is a beautiful large species of chameleon that has fascinating behaviors. Chameleons require daily care and are considered higher maintenance than many other reptiles. Veiled Chameleons are a good choice for beginning chameleon hobbyists, yet are challenging for a beginning reptile keeper. Captive bred Veiled Chameleons are readily available and are always recommended over wild caught animals.

Common Name: Veiled Chameleon

Scientific Name: *Chamaeleo calyptratus*

Distribution: Saudi Arabia, Yemen & surrounding areas.

Size: 8-18"

Life Span: Males: 6-8 yr, Females: 4-6 yr

Habitat

Open air screen cages are the perfect match for Veiled Chameleons.

Provide plenty of climbing branches and broad leaf plants to create cover and climbing opportunities.

Be sure that any live plants being used are non-toxic because Veiled Chameleons will occasionally eat plants.

Offer branches of varying sizes to help your growing chameleon develop a strong grip.

Heating & Lighting

Daytime Terrarium Temperature: 72-80° F

Basking Spot: 85-90°F

Nighttime Temperature: Above 50°F

Basking spot lamps are great choices for heating chameleon enclosures.

Chameleons prefer a drop in temperature at night, we recommend a low wattage heat bulb such as a nocturnal infrared heat lamp.

UVB Lighting is essential for chameleons to process calcium in captivity.

Without UVB lighting chameleons will develop serious health problems such as Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD).

UVB Lighting should be left on for 10-12 hours per day and turned off at night.

Substrates

- Cage carpeting is the easiest substrate to maintain chameleons on.
- It is strongly recommended that hatchling chameleons are not kept on any type of loose substrate. coconut husk substrate is the safest and cleanest choice for young chameleons.
- Orchid bark, Cypress mulch, and coconut husk substrate can be used as a nesting substrate for adults. Provide a nest box with at least 4" of substrate in all enclosures that house adult females.

Nutrition

- Veiled Chameleons are insectivorous animals and will require a varied diet of insects.
- Insects such as crickets and mealworms are a good staple diet.

We recommend “gut-loading” your feeder insects prior to feeding your animals.

- Reptile calcium and Reptile multi-vitamins with Vitamin D should be added to food as directed. Calcium and multi-vitamins are critical to keeping your growing chameleon healthy and active.
- Veiled Chameleons occasionally will eat leafy greens if offered.
- Feed Daily and remove all uneaten insects from the enclosure after feedings.

Water

Veiled Chameleons prefer to drink or lap water from leaves. This can be replicated in captivity by offering a drip system or a misting system.

Always add water conditioner to your tap water to remove Chlorine and Chloramines.

Tips

- Purchase a quality book on the care and husbandry of these animals before bringing any animal home.

This is only a basic care sheet,

Please continue to educate yourself on your new family member.