

JACKSON'S CHAMELEON

- Jackson's Chameleons have the ability to change color based on their emotional state or color of the foliage around them. Males tend to be more colorful than females, with blue and/or yellow markings.
- Range in size from about 9-13 inches in length (including the tail). Males tend to be larger than females of the same sub species.
- Average lifespan of 5-10 years in captivity.
- They are omnivores and eat both plants and insects.

Diet

A chameleon's diet should be made mostly of "gutloaded" crickets and mealworms which have been dusted with a vitamin supplement.

Chameleons are omnivorous so offer different types of fruits, vegetables, and plants in a small feeding dish every day. Some examples of appropriate foods other than crickets include superworms, silk worms, pinky mice, collard, turnip, and dandelion greens, carrots, squash, sweet potatoes, corn, hibiscus flowers, and fruits.

Buy appropriately sized insects to feed and cut vegetables, fruits, and plants into bite-size pieces for your chameleon; food items that are too large can harm them.

Housing

Jackson's Chameleons are aggressive toward one another as adults and it is recommended to always keep them separate. They may be housed together as juveniles, and sometimes a female/female combination can be housed together if the cage is large enough.

These lizards grow to be relatively large, so buy the largest cage your budget can handle. A 75 gallon tank with a screen top would be the ideal size for an adult. The enclosure should be decorated with a variety of plants, vines, driftwood, rocks, and other types of decorations. Substrate can be any type of soil or bark bedding.

Mist the enclosure daily; the humidity range should be between 50 and 80%. Full-spectrum UVB lighting and a heat lamp are required to keep your chameleon happy and healthy. Ambient air temperature should be between 70 and 80°F with a basking temperature of 85°F.

Handling & Care

Fresh water and food should be provided daily. Any uneaten fresh fruits, vegetables, or plants need to be removed within 24 hours of being offered to avoid having your chameleon eat any spoiled foods. Chameleons need to be misted daily because they typically will not drink from a water dish but instead will drink water droplets from plant leaves and decorations after being misted.

Chameleons can suffer from respiratory ailments from inadequate ventilation, excessively wet or soiled substrate and decorations, or constant cool temperatures. Regular cage cleaning is needed and includes wiping the entire cage clean and replacing old dirty bedding with fresh at least once a month.

Metabolic Bone Disease is common in captive reptiles but is easily prevented by dusting foods with a calcium supplement at least once a week. UVB lighting and vitamin D3 should be provided to ensure proper absorption of calcium.

Wash your hands with anti-bacterial soap after handling any animal.



CHAMELEON CHECKLIST

- Large Terrarium
- Screen Top
- Feeding Dish
- Décor
- Crickets/Mealworms
- Cricket Keeper
- Calcium Supplement
- Vitamin D3 Supplement
- UVB Lighting
- Heat Source
- Substrate
- Thermometer (2)
- Hygrometer
- Small Transport Carrier
- Chameleon Book