



Introduction To The Care Of The Veiled Yemen Chameleon

Scientific Name: Chamaeleo Calyptratus (Also known as the Yemen Chameleon)

Life Span: 5-10 years in captivity

Size: Veiled Chameleon males 18-24 inches total length (12 inches snout to vent), females 10-13 inches (4-6 inches snout to vent)

Appearance: The Veiled Chameleon has a large, tall casque, or helmet-like structure on the top of their head. It is present in both males and females, though it is large in males. Their bodies are banded in shades of green yellow and brown

Temperament: Veiled Chameleons are territorial and aggressive towards other chameleons and should be housed individually. While they are usually quite docile towards people, handling can be quite stressful. Veiled Chameleons seem to tolerate being handled, but this should not be done regularly as they are prone to stress if handled too frequently.

Chameleons are quite delicate, so care should be taken during handling to ensure that your Chameleon is supported sufficiently. It is advisable to wash your hands both before and after handling your Veiled Chameleon with a good anti-bacterial hand wash or sterilizing hand gel. This is basic good hygiene that will not only safeguard you and your family, but will also promote the health of your Veiled Chameleon too.

Housing: Vertical space is essential for a chameleon and a cage size of 36 inches by 24 inches by at least 36 inches high is recommended for an adult (the bigger the better though as chameleons like to climb up high, All lizards require somewhere to hide and can become stressed if this is not provided, in the case of chameleons this can be in the form of plants, branches and foliage, some live plants can be used, but there are some that are dangerous to chameleons.



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Heating and Lighting: Veiled chameleons are cold blooded and get heat from their surroundings. In the wild they would bask in the sun to keep warm or move to a shady spot if they are too hot, this is called thermo-regulation. The ideal temperature for your veiled chameleons enclosure is a temperature of 26-30 degrees Celsius (79-86 degrees Fahrenheit) maintained by a basking spot on the roof of the enclosure. Chameleons also need an ultraviolet (UVA/UVB) light source, so invest in a good 5.0 bulb, keep the light on for 10-12 hours per day but remember these bulbs need replacing approximately every 9 months (varies between manufacturers)

Humidity and Hydration: Veiled chameleons need a moderate humidity of around approximately 50 %. Misting plants twice daily will help with humidity level, and a drip or misting system can also help. Chameleons rarely drink from bowls, but will lap up droplets of water off plants, so misting also serves as a water source. A hydrometer can also assist in measuring and monitoring the humidity in an enclosure

Feeding: Veiled Chameleons are mostly insectivores so should be fed a variety of insects but will often consume vegetation as well. Crickets, locust, roaches, butterworms (good for calcium) silkworms, flies, and grasshoppers can be fed, as well as mealworms, superworms and waxworms (in limited quantities as high in fat). All insects should be gut loaded (fed fresh veggies and vitamin/minerals) before feeding. In addition, many veiled chameleons will also eat a bit of plant matter (including live plants in the cage, so it is vital that only non toxic plants are used). You can offer small amounts of vegetables and fruits such as dandelion leaves, collared greens, kale, diced zucchini, butternut squash, red pepper, blueberries, thin slices of apple or pear, etc. Monitor your chameleon and adjust feeding amount as needed (if many insects are left uneaten or your chameleon is too full-bodied, back off the amount fed.) Never leave live prey in the cage for extended periods as insects many attack the chameleon. Make sure your insects are gut loaded /dusted with calcium/vitamin D3 supplement (such as vetark calci fust/nutrobal) two to three times a week.

Please note that this is only an introductory guide based on our opinions and experience, we advise you to continually research and learn as much as possible from as many sources as you can, every animal is different and new care and information is always being developed and found 😊