

Yemen Chameleon



PROFILE

Common Name: **Yemen or veiled chameleon**

Latin Name: **Chamaeleo calytratus**

Native To: **Yemen and Saudi Arabia**

Size: **M:14-24" F:10-16"**

Life Span: **M:7-8years F:3-4years**

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Yemen chameleons are an arboreal lizard evolved to spend their lives camouflaged in the trees hunting insects. Living in tropical rainforests chameleons enjoy high temperatures and high humidity.

Vivarium Size:

A good adult size enclosure would be 2'x2'x3' high well ventilated glass terrarium. The glass allowing for heat dissipation and the vents allowing for air flow. Height also being more important to chameleons as arboreal lizards. This being said, chameleons will spend most of their day sat motionless, using their unique eyes to spot potential prey.

Substrate:

A good quality substrate with excellent water retention would be ideal. Humidity should be maintained around 60% but can go as high as 90% and as low as 30%. Chameleons are excellent candidates for bioactive enclosures as the mini ecosystem would benefit the stability of the enclosure. Mosses and leaf litter work very well to retain moisture in the substrate.

Food and Water:

Yemen chameleons are naturally omnivorous, but in the wild vegetation is only really eaten to help hydrate them. In captivity they do very well on a varied insect diet including locust, cricket, mealworm, morioworm, waxworm and cockroaches. Other prey items can be introduced into the diet. Some chameleons have been known to take small lizards and mice but these should be limited to treats for the animal.

Fresh water should always be available for the chameleon but they will most likely drink water from leaves in their enclosure after spraying.

Heat/Light Requirements:

As with all reptiles, chameleons are exothermic getting all their metabolic heat from external sources. Chameleons are a diurnal lizard so full spectrum UV lighting is important for their health. We would advise ceramic heat bulbs to maintain temperatures within the enclosure.

Listed below are the ideal temperatures that you will need to replicate for your chameleon:

Hot spot: 30 - 35°C

Cool end: 22 -26 °C

Night temperatures: 24 - 28°C

FURTHER READING:

<http://www.reptilesmagazine.com/>

Any Problems?

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

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