

## Jackson Chameleons

Basic instructions and general rules of thumb to follow for the captive care and well-being of your new pet.

COMMON NAME: Jackson Chameleon  
SCIENTIFIC NAME: Chamaeleo jacksoni  
ADULT SIZE: 11" to 13"  
DISTRIBUTION: Tropical Africa

RECOMMENDED EXPREIENCE Level: Intermediate

### TEMPERAMENT:

Jackson Chameleons are usually tame but frequent handling could stress the chameleon. You should separate males to avoid territorial disputes.

### HOUSING:

An adult chameleon will require at least a 29 gallon aquarium. Suitable substrates for you chameleon's home include reptile carpet or orchid bark. Chameleons should be provided with climbing vines, real or artificial (stiff artificial vines with wire are recommended). If your chameleon is over 4", separate housing is recommended.

### ENVIROMENT:

Jackson Chameleons are indigenous to tropical rain forest mountain areas; therefore, it's crucial that they be provided a temperature range of 78-82°F during the day and in the mid to high 60's°F at night and a basking spot should also be provided. This is necessary for the Jackson chameleon's metabolism and immune system to function properly. The most appropriate method for establishing a proper temperature range is placing spotlights with variable wattage incandescent bulbs on the outside of the enclosure. Never place lights inside the enclosure where the chameleon could come in contact with them and get burned. You can also use undertank heaters to help regulate the temperature 24 hours a day. They should also be kept at moderate to high levels of humidity.

### FOOD:

Jackson chameleons are carnivores. Their primary diet consists of insects like crickets and mealworms. **DO NOT LEAVE THE CRICKETS IN THE CAGE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.** You should dust your chameleon's food with a vitamin/mineral supplement.

### WATER:

Chameleons usually will not drink from standing water; therefore a water bowl is not necessary. Misting of the vines and leaves at least twice a day is recommended. You should also provide a water dripper with a catch for a constant water source.

### LIGHTING:

12 hours of Full-Spectrum lighting and 12 of darkness is a good starting cycle for chameleons. Chameleons depend on ultra-violet light (B) to synthesize vitamin D<sup>3</sup>, which regulates calcium absorption in the intestine. A full spectrum bulb should be positioned less than 18" from your pet for maximum effect. Glass blocks ultraviolet light and should never be used as a top for the enclosure. Using a timer is the best way to ensure that the proper amount of light is received.

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