



Pamper your Fin, Fur or Feathered Family
 ..and your friends with Scales



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Meller's Chameleon

Chamealeo Melleri

Lifespan: Up to 12 years.

Size: Up to 24 inches long, not including their tail.

Sexing: Males are difficult to differentiate from females and should be looked at by an exotic veterinarian or experienced breeder.

Enclosure: The perimeter should be at least six times the Chameleon's length, and height should be at least twice the Chameleon's length. Screen/wire cages are most preferred. Be sure that your Chameleon has a lot of room to move around.

Hiding/Climbing Spots: Chameleons love to climb. Provide a lot of plants and vines for them to climb and hide on.

Humidity: The enclosure should be well ventilated and misted well to keep the humidity high (75% to 90%) and to aid the process of shedding and prevent health problems. Use a hygrometer to maintain a constant humidity level. If housed in a mesh tank, a humidifier or fogger can help keep humidity at an acceptable level. ***Pisces recommends: Zoo Med Repti-Fogger***

Substrate: Loose forest substrate with Sphagnum Moss in parts to help with humidity. ***Pisces recommends: Exo-terra Plantation Soil.***

Heat: Maintain a temperature of as low as 21 °C (70 °F) at night to as high as 35 °C (95 °F) during the day. Use a heat bulb on one portion of the tank so the animal can escape the warm area if they need to. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra bulbs and fixtures.***

UV Lighting: Use of a full spectrum 5.0 bulb for 12 hours per day is required. Fluorescent bulbs lose effectiveness and need to be replaced every 6-8 months.

Feeding: Offer food everyday, you can skip a day without causing any harm, but do not make a habit of it. Meller's Chameleons feed on appropriately sized crickets or worms and will eat appropriately sized mice when offered (no more than 2 per month). Place food in a cup or dish for easier hunting.

Vitamins & Supplements: Dust crickets with calcium supplement every third feeding. Be sure to use a calcium supplement with Vitamin D₃.

Handling: Meller's can be handled but use extreme gentleness. Some may be reluctant to be handled. If they appear stressed and show a lot of black in their coloration, put them back in their terrarium and try again later.

Other: Chameleons will generally not drink still water. It is important to have running water in your terrarium. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra Waterfalls.***

Safe Handling of Reptiles*: As with all living creatures, reptiles can carry microorganisms (including Salmonella) which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet reptile roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

Recommended Books: Pisces recommends *The Chameleon Handbook* (Barron's Books).

Recommended Supplies:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Terrarium ❑ Branches for climbing ❑ Plants ❑ Misting bottle ❑ Water dish ❑ Pet Moss/Sphagnum Moss ❑ Zoo Med Repti-Fogger ❑ ExoTerra Waterfall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Heat Bulb & Fixture ❑ Fluorescent Light & Fixture ❑ Rep-Cal Herptivite Multi-Vitamin ❑ Rep-Cal Calcium Supplement ❑ Crickets ❑ Thermometer ❑ Hygrometer |
|--|---|

Your New Pet: It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness.

Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat.

A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.



4921 Skyline Way N.E.

Calgary, Alberta T2E 4G5

Phone: (403) 274-3314 Fax: (403) 275-6296

www.piscespets.com

Email: pisces@piscespets.com

Reprint of this handout only with permission of and full credit to Pisces Pet Emporium

**Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*