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Panther Chameleon

Furcifer pardalis

Lifespan: Females 4-5 years, males 5-7 years

Size: Females grow to about 13" while males get to a larger 21".

Sexing: Males become larger and more colorful than females and the base of the tail is often thicker in males.

Enclosure: Panther Chameleons should be housed in a tall screen enclosure for proper airflow. XL glass is also a good option but is recommended for more experienced keepers. Hatchlings and juveniles can be housed in a 16"x16"x30" cage. Adult panthers can become territorial and should not be housed together. Multiple males should never be cohabitated. A 18x18x36 cage is adequate for a female Panther Chameleon whereas a male should be kept in a tank at least 24x24x48 enclosure. A 4x2x4' enclosure is considered ideal for a large male panther. **Piscses recommends: Zoomed Repti-breeze screen enclosures**

Hiding/Climbing Spots: Panther Chameleons love to climb and hide, so provide lots of foliage and vines or branches. Live nontoxic plants can be used to maintain humidity and add to the aesthetics of the cage. Some good examples are Ficus, Schefflera, Hibiscus, pothos and snake plants. Artificial plants can also be used if a bioactive enclosure is not done. **Piscses recommends: Exo Terra and Pangea artificial plants**

Humidity: The enclosure should be well ventilated and misted well to keep the humidity high at night (75% to 100%) and 50% to 60% during the day to aid the process of shedding and prevent health problems. Use a digital hygrometer to monitor humidity levels. If housed in a mesh tank, a humidifier or fogger can help keep humidity at an acceptable level. Panthers should be misted 2-4 times daily for 1-2min, with special attention to leaves and vines. Chameleons tend not to drink from water dishes, rather they lick up water droplets from foliage and directly from moving water. A waterfall is an easy way to assure your Panther has moving water. **Piscses recommends: Mistking system and Zoomed Reptifogger**

Substrate: Repti carpet can be used but tend to get dirty very quickly, so cleaning needs to be done often. Loose forest substrate with moss is also acceptable and helps keep humidity up and to keep live plants. **Piscses recommends: ExoTerra Plantation Soil, Zoomed Reptisoil and Jurassic ABG mix.**

Heat: Panthers should have an ambient temperature of 72°-77°F (22-25 °C) during the day with a basking area between 85°-90°F (29-32 °C). At night the cage temperature can fall to 60-70°F (15-21 °C). Use a heat bulb on one portion of the tank so the animal can escape the warm area if they need to. **Piscses recommends: ExoTerra and Arcadia bulbs and fixtures.**

UV Lighting: Use of a full spectrum T5 bulb for 10-12 hours per day is required. UVB bulbs lose effectiveness and need to be replaced every 8-12 months. ***Pisces recommends Arcadia T5 Pro D3+ 6% or 12% (based on how close the chameleon can get to the UVB, use the 6% if it can get within 6" of bulb and 12% if the distance is further then 10")***

Feeding: Offer food every day. Panther Chameleons feed on appropriately sized crickets and worms and may eat pinky mice when offered as a treat. Feed crickets that are if your chameleon's head is wide. Some chameleons will even eat collard greens, mustard greens or squash if offered but mainly should be given insects. Adults can be fed every other day.

Vitamins & Supplements: Dust crickets with calcium supplement without D3 every feeding, and a vitamin powder every 1-2 weeks or so. ***Pisces recommends: Repashy Calcium Plus and Supervite.***

Handling: Panther Chameleons make wonderful display animals. They will tolerate being handled for short periods of time, but often prefer not to be handled. When handling your chameleon be sure to allow it to move about on its own and understand that often your chameleon will head for the top of your head. They are very fragile so handling must be gentle.

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.

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.

Pisces Recommended Setup:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Screen terrarium (Zoomed Repti Breeze 24x24x48) ❑ Exo terra branches and jungle vines for climbing ❑ Plants (live or Exo terra and pangea artificial hanging plants) ❑ Mistking system ❑ Jurassic sphagnum and terrarium moss for humidity ❑ Zilla reptiliner, Zoomed Reptisoil, Jurassic ABG mix ❑ Jurassic leaf litter ❑ Magnaturals magnetic food ledge for worms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Newcal Pet cork branches ❑ Exo Terra 100W Daylight Basking Lamp & Flukers 8.5in Dimmable Deluxe Clamp Lamp ❑ Arcadia T5 Pro 6-12% UVB kit (depends on how close the chameleon can get) ❑ Repashy Supervite ❑ Pangea pangeacal(without D3) ❑ Crickets ❑ Thermometer ❑ Exo Terra digital thermometer and hydrometer or combometer |
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**Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*