

PISCES

PET EMPORIUM



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Pygmy Chameleon

Rhampholeon brevicaudatus

Lifespan: 6 to 8 years.

Size: Up to 3 inches long.

Sexing: Males are generally larger.

Enclosure: Pygmy Chameleons can easily be housed in a 10-gallon tank but prefer tall tanks to long ones. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra front locking tanks***

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 18 °C (65 °F) at night to as high as 29 °C (85 °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. Pygmy Chameleons feed on appropriately sized crickets. 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. ***Pisces recommends: Rep-Cal Herptivite Multi-Vitamin.***

Handling: Pygmy Chameleons can be handled, 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:

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| <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 |
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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.



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**Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*