



4921 Skyline Way N.E.
 Calgary, Alberta T2E 4G5
 Phone: (403) 274-3314 Fax: (403) 275-6296
www.piscespets.com
 Email: pisces@piscespets.com



Veiled Chameleon

Chamealeo calyptratus

Lifespan: Males will live 5-8 years while females tend to live only 4-6 years

Size: Females get to be about 10-14", while males can grow as long as 14-24".

Sexing: Males have a tarsal spur at the back of each foot that will be visible from the time they hatch. Males also are more often brighter with a larger casque or helmet atop their heads.

Enclosure: Veiled Chameleons should be housed in a screen enclosure for good ventilation but for more experienced keepers' glass is also a good option. If air becomes stagnant, chameleons tend to succumb to respiratory infections. Babies and juveniles be housed in a 16"x16"x30" cage until they outgrow it. An adult female needs a cage at least 18"x18"x36" whereas an adult male will need a larger 2'x2'x4' cage. Include a nest box with moist beach sand for mature females. **Pisces Recommends: Zoomed Reptibreeze or Large Tall/XL Tall Exo Terra Glass Enclosures**

Hiding/Climbing Spots: Veiled Chameleons love to climb and hide so provide lots of foliage and vines or branches. Live plants add a natural touch to the cage and help keep humidity up. Some non-toxic live plants such as Ficus, hibiscus, pothos, snake plants are acceptable.

Humidity: The enclosure should be well ventilated and misted well to keep the humidity high at night (75% to 95%) and to aid the process of shedding and prevent health problems. Use a hygrometer to monitor humidity levels. If housed in a screen tank, a humidifier or fogger can help keep humidity at an acceptable level. Chameleons must be misted at least twice a day with special attention to foliage. Veiled Chameleons don't recognize still water as a drinking source, so they lick water off leaves and vines rather than drink from a dish. A dripper is an excellent source of running water for chameleons. **Pisces recommends: MistKing Systems and Zoomed Reptifogger**

Substrate: Reptile carpet or soil. Soil substrate gives a more natural look as well as aids in humidity and the housing of live plants. **Pisces recommends: Zilla Repti-liner or Zoomed Reptisoil**

Heat: Maintain a temperature of as low as 18°C at night to as high as 25°C during the day (70 °F to 85 °F). Use a heat bulb on one portion of the tank so the animal can escape the warm area if they need to. Basking spot of about 25-30°C(85-88°F) is recommended. Be careful not to put the heat lamp too close to the chameleon to avoid exposure burns. **Pisces 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 6-12 months. **Pisces Recommends Arcadia Pro T5 Bulb and Fixture Kit (6%-12%)**

Feeding: Offer food everyday, you can skip a day without causing any harm, but do not make a habit of it. Veiled Chameleons feed on appropriately sized crickets and worms. Hornworms are a good treat occasionally. 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 and Repashy Calcium Plus.***

Handling: Veiled Chameleons 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/moving water in your terrarium. A waterfall, drip system is often a good idea to include in the enclosure.

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"> ❑ Terrarium (Zoomed Reptibreeze 18x18x36) ❑ Zoomed ReptiBreeze Substrate bottom Tray ❑ Exo Terra Branches and Jungle Vines for climbing ❑ NewCal Pet cork branches ❑ Plants (live or Exo Terra artificial hanging plants) ❑ Exo Terra Misting bottle but a MistKing system is highly recommended ❑ Jurassic Sphagnum Moss or Terrarium Moss for aiding in humidity ❑ Zoomed Repti-Fogger ❑ Wet Sand for lay box (for females) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Exo Terra 100-150watt daylight basking lamp & Flukers Dimmable 8.5in Deluxe Clamp Lamp Fixture ❑ Arcadia T5 Pro 6% D3+ UVB Kit ❑ Rep-Cal/Repashy Multi-Vitamin ❑ Rep-Cal calcium or Repashy Calcium Plus ❑ Crickets/worms ❑ Exo Terra Thermometer, hydrometer or combometer ❑ Zoomed Environmental Control Center can be used to monitor and maintain correct temperature and humidity ❑ Exo Terra terrarium lock(optional) ❑ Magnaturals food ledge for worm feedings |
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**Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*