

Kammerflage Kreation's

www.chameleonsonly.com

~Panther Chameleon Care Sheet~

Furcifer pardalis

You've chosen one of our very favorite chameleons of all . . . the Panther Chameleon! The purpose of this information sheet is to provide you with the basic requirements for set up and care. Further study through reading books, discussing care techniques with other keepers and your own personal observations over time, will be most valuable to your overall success with keeping your chameleon happy and healthy.

Enclosures:

We prefer all screen enclosures with a hard plastic bottoms. Chameleons do best when housed in screen enclosures. These types of cages are light weight, easy to clean and able to be used outdoors on a warm, sunny day. Below are some recommended cage sizes:

Baby Size: 24"L x 12"W x 24"H

Juvenile Size: 24"L x 16"W x 30"H

Adult Size: 30"L x 18"W x 36"H

Baby chameleons should be kept in smaller enclosures in order to properly meet their daily needs. In an appropriately sized cage, they will have an easier time finding food, drinking water and staying warm. We keep the bottom of the cage clean and free of any substrate. Standing water or waste should be cleaned out on a regular basis in order to avoid potential bacterial growth.

Lighting:

(1) - UV Florescent Light Fixture

(1) - Zoo Med Reptisun 5.0 florescent bulb or comparable UV bulb (**NEVER, EVER a 10.0 – much too strong for a chameleon!!!**)

(1) - Clamp Lamp Fixture

(1) - Incandescent light bulb for heat

Obviously, nothing man-made will ever replace the sun. Whenever you have a chance to take your chameleon outside, we highly recommend it. The optimum hours for natural UV exposure are between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Be sure to place your cage in partial sun/shade and provide misting and watering to avoid possibilities of overheating. As little as one day a week in the sun will prove to be very beneficial to your chameleon.

Since most chameleons will spend a portion of time indoors, lighting plays an important role in their health and well-being. Two forms of lighting are required. The first is UV Florescent lighting, which simulates natural sunlight. UV rays are important not only for the provision of vitamin D3 (necessary for absorption of calcium), but also for proper health and psychological well-being. UV exposure helps to elevate a chameleon's mood, activity level and appetite.

Since florescent lights do not produce heat, this is not the only light source needed. In addition to the florescent lighting, an incandescent bulb is necessary to provide proper heating. **Panthers** should be provided with a basking site that reaches 90-95F for babies and 95F for adults. A branch can be placed horizontally underneath the basking area where the chameleon can relax and enjoy the warmth. The branch should be no closer than 6 inches below the screen top so as to avoid accidental burns to your chameleon. The incandescent bulb, which fits in a clamp lamp fixture, should be located in one corner on the screen top of the cage. By placing the clamp lamp in one corner, you can provide a gradient temperature range within the enclosure. When your chameleon wants to warm up under the heat light, he/she will go over to bask, if not, there will be other cooler areas in the enclosure to go to. Avoid placing the spot lamp in the top middle since the heat will disperse evenly throughout the cage.

Both forms of lighting should be off at night. Just as chameleons in the wild have a cooling down period during the night, we need to provide this in captivity as well. Unless the temperatures inside your home fall below 68 degrees F in the wintertime, no additional heat source at night (such as a ceramic heat lamp) should be necessary.

Light Timer:

(1) Inexpensive lamp timer

(1) 3-pronged adapter to fit the timer (which is usually 2-pronged)

(1) Power strip

Placing your lights on an automatic timer is a simple way to automate the care of your chameleon on a daily basis. You can plug a power strip into an inexpensive lamp timer and have the chameleon's lights come on and off routinely. We set our timers on a 12-hour cycle during the summer and a 10-hour cycle during the winter.

Plants:

We recommend both artificial and living plants to include in your chameleon's enclosure. Either/or works . . . or a combination of both. When going with something live, choose a healthy plant that fits the cage nicely, both in fullness and height. We like Ficus benjamina (Weeping Figs), since they do nicely both indoors and out. Some other nontoxic plants include:

Umbrella Tree (*Schefflera arboricola*)

Hibiscus

Pothos

Ivy

Due to pesticide and fertilizer use in most plant nurseries, whenever you introduce a new plant to your animal's enclosure, there are some preparation steps to take beforehand. Many nursery's and garden centers use heavy-duty pesticides to protect the plants but these same pesticides may prove fatal to your chameleon if ingested. Make sure they are removed!

Step 1: Take a clean bucket and fill it with a squirt of antibacterial soap and water. Create a soapy solution. Invert the plant "head down" into the water and swish around. Let the plant sit for 3-5 minutes.

Step 2: Rinse the plant thoroughly so that any soap solution is removed. Repeat steps 1 and 2 a second or third time.

Step 3: The potting soil the plant originally comes in may contain fertilizers and soil additives that could be detrimental to your animal. Crickets often go into the potting soil of the plant and if your chameleon shoots for the cricket, you don't want him/her to draw back nitrate fertilizers along with their prey. A simple way to remedy this is to purchase a small bag of "Super Soil" (without conditioners) and replace the top 3-4" of soil in the plant container.

Once your plant is properly cleaned and the topsoil is replaced, you can rest easy that it's now ready for a new home with your chameleon.

Watering:

Spray bottle for misting

Drip watering system

We mist our chameleons' enclosure plants about one hour after the lights come on. Enclosures can be misted once in the morning and then later on in the afternoon when possible. Misting not only provides water for your chameleon to drink from, it's also helpful in raising humidity within the enclosure.

After misting, you can fill the chameleon's drip cup with fresh water and place it on the screen top so it drips over the interior plant(s). Use a simple catch plate/bowl underneath the plant to hold any excess water.

Feeding Guidelines:

Babies/Juveniles: We feed our baby/juvenile Panthers 6 days a week (excluding Sundays).

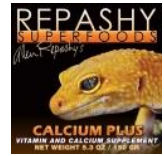
Babies: Young ones grow very rapidly and will often eat 8-12 crickets a day (quantities vary depending on individual appetites). For little ones in the age range of 2 – 4.5 months old, we recommend crickets that are 7-14 days old (small 1/8 - 1/4" size). In addition to crickets, two of their favorite foods at this stage of life are flightless fruit flies and domestic houseflies.

Juveniles: When your chameleon reaches the 4-1/2 - 12 month old age range, he/she will graduate to 3 week old crickets (1/2" – 3/4" size) for the remainder of his/her life. During these critical months of development, they will continue to consume an average of 8 -12 crickets, often slowing down their intake once they are over a year old. We don't feed crickets larger than the 3-4 week old size (even to our adults) because by then, the cricket's stomach size is fully matured and **it's what you feed your cricket**, that goes on to benefit your chameleon's health & nutritional intake. That's why a good cricket gutload is SO important! We highly recommend Repashy's "Bug Burger" as an excellent cricket diet. See: http://www.chameleononly.com/products/Repashy_Superfoods_Bug_Burger_16_oz_pkg-292-22.html for full details.

Adult Males: From 13 months on, we feed our adult males on an "every other day" basis. They generally consume 12-15 per feeding. At this stage of life, they are no longer experiencing rapid growth and don't require food on a daily basis.

Adult Females: For mature and actively breeding females, we maintain a 6 day feeding schedule due to the high demands associated with egg production. For non-breeding females, we feed on an every other day basis just as we do with the males.

Supplements:



Kammerflage Kreations announces its endorsement of Repashy Superfoods, Calcium Plus!

After close to three years of trials using Calcium Plus as the only supplement for selected groups of our Panther Chameleons, we are delighted to report excellent results! During our testing we have successfully raised hundreds of baby Panther Chameleons, using Calcium Plus as the exclusive supplement for those babies. Calcium Plus, from Repashy Superfoods, is an "All in One" insect dusting product, providing essential vitamins, calcium, minerals and trace elements. Easy and effective, you can now use one product every time you feed your Panther instead of rotating different products. Your life just got easier! We have been impressed with Allen's science (<https://www.store.repashy.com/calcium-and-d-3.html>) from the beginning and feel his company is on the cutting edge of herp nutrition...but with so much at stake, we needed to "SEE" the results ourselves before we would consider recommending Calcium Plus to "our own customers". Well, based on the results we have witnessed for close to three years now, with hundreds of our own Panthers, we are believers! It is with great enthusiasm that we are now promoting Calcium Plus as the best alternative for each and every time you dust your feeder insects for your Panther Chameleon. (5.3 oz. jar - \$11.99).

See: http://www.chameleononly.com/products/Repashy_Superfoods_Calcium_Plus-291-22.html for full details.

Cricket Care:

Supplies needed:

A 10-gallon glass aquarium with a screened top

Spot lamp for proper heat (crickets should be kept in the high 80's, low 90's)

Crickets can make great feeder insects. They are readily available and gut load easily. Since your crickets become the "vehicle" of nutrition to your chameleon, it's important that they receive a highly nutritious diet. Because crickets are cannibalistic, they need to be fed 24/7. We recommend "Bug Burger" as an excellent cricket (roach) diet. (16-oz. package: \$ 15.99). This premium diet feeds **AND** hydrates insects, eliminating the need for dry feed and standing water. Its nutrient rich formula is fortified with Calcium, Magnesium, Vitamins, and Carotenoids in order to maximize the nutritional value of Insects as feeders. Here is a full list of ingredients that make up "Bug Burger":



50+ INGREDIENTS: Alfalfa Meal, Flax Meal, Corn Meal, Potato Granules, Brewers Dried Yeast, Pea Protein Isolate, Dried Kelp, Calcium Carbonate, Carrageenan, Konjac, Carob Bean Gum, Guar Gum, Dried Krill, RoseHips, Cinnamon, Calendula Flower, Marigold Flower Extract, Phaffia Rhodozyma Yeast, Paprika Extract, Spirulina Algae, Turmeric, Salt, Potassium Citrate, Magnesium Gluconate, Canthaxanthin, Malic Acid, Calcium Propionate, Methylparaben, and Potassium Sorbate (as mold inhibitors), Lecithin, Rosemary Extract and Mixed Tocopherols (as preservatives), Vitamins (Vitamin A Supplement, Vitamin D Supplement, Choline Chloride, Ascorbic Acid, Vitamin E Supplement, Niacin, Beta Carotene, Pantothenic Acid, Riboflavin, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Thiamine Mononitrate, Menadione Sodium Bisulfite Complex, Folic Acid, Biotin, Vitamin B-12 Supplement).

Keep your crickets clean on a regular basis so you avoid possible disease, which can be passed on to your precious chameleon. Old, uneaten food should be removed from the cricket tank regularly and the glass bottom should be scraped out several times a week. This can be easily done with a paint scraper that has a broad, flat, straight edge. When all the crickets have been fed out and the tank is then empty, that's the perfect time to clean it out with hot water, a squirt of anti-bacterial soap and a cap full of bleach.

Crickets are cold blooded and require temperatures in the upper 80's to low 90's. When warmed properly, the crickets are active and eat regularly. If they get cold, you will more than likely experience high mortality.

Handling:

Often we are asked, "Is it ok to handle my chameleon?" . . . to this question, we answer "YES". Please give your chameleon a couple of weeks to settle in when he/she first arrives. Once they've had a chance to adjust to their new surroundings, begin handling them for brief periods of time (5-10 minutes at a time) when you have the opportunity. Carefully remove them from their enclosure (using a stick for them to first climb out on is very effective) and sit quietly on a chair or couch and allow them to crawl on you and explore new territory.

Be aware that when they are little, they see you as a GIANT predator that will more than likely snap them up at any given moment and eat them for a snack! They are programmed with a "flight or fight" response and may even fling themselves off of you to avoid being "eaten"! Be prepared for that possibility and avoid letting them fall to the ground risking serious injury. Over time and as they mature, they learn that you mean them no harm. They aren't the snack . . . you actually bring them tasty snacks and take wonderful care of them. Trust is patiently built over time and before long, you will hopefully have a sweet chameleon on your hands! Each one has a different personality (like people . . . outgoing, standoffish, shy, inquisitive) and over time you'll get to know more about your individual pet.

Parrot Chameleon

~Setup Checklist~

Screen Enclosure:

Babies/Juveniles: 24"L x 12"W x 24"H or 24"L x 16"W x 30"H
Adults: 30"L x 18"W x 36"H

Lighting:

- (1) - UV Florescent Light Fixture
- (1) - Zoo Med Reptisun 5.0 florescent bulb or comparable UV bulb (**NEVER, EVER a 10.0 – Much too strong for a chameleon!**)
- (1) - Clamp Lamp Fixture
- (1) - Basking bulb

Light Timer:

- (1) Inexpensive lamp timer
- (1) 3-pronged adapter to fit the timer (which is usually 2-pronged)
- (1) Power strip to plug the lights into

Live Plants:

Examples:

Weeping Figs (*Ficus benjamina*)
Umbrella Tree (*Schefflera arboricola*)
Hibiscus
Pothos
Ivy

Watering:

Spray bottle for misting
Drip water system

Food:

Babies:

Crickets - No longer than the width of the chameleon's head
Flightless Fruit Flies
Domestic House Flies

Sub-adults/Adults:

Crickets
Superworms
Wax worms
Other feeder insects such as: Silkworms, Roaches, and Horned Worms

Supplements:

Repashy Superfoods - Calcium Plus (an all-in-one, daily use supplement)