

Jackson's Chameleon

Chamaeleo jacksonii



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Jackson's chameleons were once found only in East Africa at elevations up to 8,000 feet. Like all chameleons, Jackson's can change color. When catching prey, they can project their tongues up to 1-1/2 times their body length.



Is a Jackson's chameleon the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

1. I have an appropriate location and space for a chameleon.
2. I want a pet that doesn't need to be cuddled or touched.
3. I feel comfortable providing live food to a chameleon.
4. I can commit to providing proper care for this Jackson's chameleon.
5. A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

If you answered "Yes" to these statements, a Jackson's chameleon may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a Jackson's chameleon and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

Average Size 9 to 13 inches long

Life Span 5+ years with proper care

Diet Provide a variety of live insects, including gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets, mealworms, and waxworms; Dust the insects daily with a pure calcium supplement and once or twice a week with a vitamin/mineral supplement

Feeding Feed adults every other day; juveniles daily

Housing Due to the varied sizes and growth rates of reptiles, and their individualized needs, we recommend you consult your qualified reptile veterinarian and a book on this species to determine it's specific housing requirements

Size – Appropriate size and shape to accommodate normal activity, taller than wide, with screened sides; recommend aluminum or mesh, avoid fiberglass; use a basin under the bottom of the cage to catch water

Habitat – A dense area of non-toxic plants for hiding and a more open, exposed area of branches for basking

Temperature – Temperature gradient of 80° F. for the warm end and 65° F. for the cool end; recommend radiant heat; use an incandescent light or ceramic heater

Substrate – No specific substrate required, these are tree-dwellers and reside on branches and in plants exclusively; use sphagnum moss and mulch-type substrates

Water – Not likely to drink directly from a bowl; will rely on moisture on non-toxic plants and in collecting pools for drinking; use drip system with chlorine-free water or mist regularly; maintain habitat at 75 to 80% humidity, depending on species

Lighting – Provide UVB rays with full spectrum fluorescent light for 10 to 12 hours a day; incandescent bulb is needed for basking area if not using a ceramic heater

Chameleons should be housed separately; do not house different species of reptiles together

Recommended Supplies

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat with secure lid | <input type="checkbox"/> Full spectrum light |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer and humidity gauge | <input type="checkbox"/> Incandescent basking light or ceramic heater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mist bottle/drip system | <input type="checkbox"/> Basking branches and non-toxic plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about chameleons | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin/mineral supplement |

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Normal Behavior and Interaction

All chameleons have eyes that can see in two directions at once
Jackson's males have three horns, making them resemble a triceratops dinosaur
Most chameleons become very stressed when handled; only handle when necessary

Habitat Maintenance

Remove feces from habitat daily; mist frequently to maintain humidity
Thoroughly clean the habitat at least once a week: set chameleon aside in a secure habitat; scrub the habitat with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach; add clean substrate

Grooming and Hygiene

Always wash your hands before and after touching your chameleon or habitat contents to help prevent *Salmonella* and other infectious diseases

Chameleons regularly shed their skin; mist regularly to ensure proper humidity for shedding

Signs of a Healthy Animal

- Consistent behavior
- Healthy skin
- Clear eyes
- Eats regularly
- Clear nose and vent
- Body and tail are rounded and full

Common Health Issues

Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Gastro-intestinal Disease	Runny stools, caked or smeared stool around the vent area, and loss of appetite caused by bacterial or parasitic infection.	Consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
Metabolic Bone/Vitamin Deficiency	Inability to absorb calcium due to insufficient UVB light. If untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities and softened bones. Swollen limbs and lethargy.	Provide ample UVB lighting and consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
Respiratory Disease	Labored breathing, runny nose, swollen eyes. Can be caused by temperatures that are too cold.	Ensure that the habitat is appropriately warm. Consult your exotic animal veterinarian.

Red Flags

- Mucus in mouth or nose
- Swelling
- Paralysis of limbs or tail
- Bumps, sores or abrasions on skin
- Lethargic
- Labored breathing
- Abnormal feces
- Weight loss or decreased appetite

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.

Sources

Chameleons, Their Care and Breeding by Linda J. Davison
Jackson's and Veiled Chameleons by Richard D. Bartlett and Patricia Bartlett
The New Chameleon Handbook by Francois Le Berre

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.