



## Cuban False Chameleon Care Sheet

**Species name:**

*Anolis barbatus*

**Adult size:**

18 cm

**Lifespan:**

3-6 Years

**Breeding age:**

1 Year Old



The Cuban false chameleon, scientifically known as *Anolis baracoae*, is a striking reptile endemic to Cuba. Despite its name, it's not a true chameleon but belongs to the *Anolis* genus. This arboreal lizard boasts a remarkable ability to change colours, blending into its surroundings for camouflage. Typically, it exhibits hues of green and brown, matching foliage to evade predators and ambush prey. Its flattened body and prehensile tail aid in navigating dense vegetation. Found primarily in forested regions of western Cuba, this species thrives in humid climates.

## **Enclosure:**

**Size:** A vertically oriented enclosure is crucial for these lizards. For a single juvenile, a cage that is at least 45x45x90cm is recommended.

**Substrate:** Use a substrate that retains humidity, such as coconut coir or cypress mulch.

**Climbing Opportunities:** Provide branches and plants for climbing and basking. Live plants can contribute to humidity and provide a more natural environment.

## **Lighting:**

Cuban False Chameleons need UVB lighting to metabolize calcium and maintain proper bone health. Use a high-quality UVB bulb of around 6-7% and replace it every 6-12 months.

## **Heating:**

Maintain a basking spot temperature of around 29-32°C during the day, with a cooler area around 22-28°C.

Allow the temperature to drop to around 18-22°C at night.

## **Humidity:**

Keep humidity levels around 70-80%. Regular misting 2-3 times a day with a water spray bottle or mister is essential. A hygrometer should be used to monitor humidity levels.

## **Feeding:**

**Diet:** Cuban False Chameleons primarily eat insects. Offer a variety, including crickets, roaches, and mealworms. Gut-load insects with nutritious foods before feeding.

**Supplements:** Dust insects with calcium and vitamin supplements at least twice a week to ensure proper nutrition.



## **Hydration:**

False Chameleons may not drink from a bowl; therefore, misting the enclosure allows them to drink water droplets.

## **Handling:**

While Cuban False Chameleons may tolerate handling, minimize it to reduce stress. Always approach slowly and support their body to avoid injury.

## **Health Care:**

**Health Checks:** Regularly observe your False Chameleon to see if you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance. If something does not seem right seek professional advice promptly.

**Hygiene:** Keep the enclosure clean, removing waste and uneaten food promptly.

By providing a suitable environment that mimics their natural habitat, along with proper nutrition and care, you can ensure the well-being of your Cuban False Chameleon in captivity. Regular observation and adjustments to their care routine will contribute to their long-term health and happiness.