



Panther Chameleon Care Sheet

Species Name:

Furcifer pardalis

Adult size:

Males: 15-21 Inches

Females: 9-13 Inches

Lifespan:

3-8 Years (Sex/breeding dependent)

Breeding Age:

1 Year Old



Panther chameleons are native to the tropical rainforests and coastal areas of Madagascar, an island nation off the south-eastern coast of Africa. They inhabit a range of environments, from dense forests to open coastal areas. These chameleons are known for their striking coloration and are highly arboreal, spending the majority of their time in trees and shrubs.

Panther chameleons have the remarkable ability to change colour, which they use for communication, thermoregulation, and camouflage. Their colour changes are influenced by factors such as mood, temperature, and lighting. Males are particularly vibrant, showcasing a wide array of colours, including bright reds, blues, greens, and yellows, to attract females and establish dominance.

Housing:

Enclosure: A vertically oriented enclosure is essential, as panther chameleons are arboreal. A screen cage with adequate ventilation is recommended to maintain proper airflow.

Size: For a single adult panther chameleon, a cage measuring at least 24 inches by 24 inches by 48 inches is suitable. Bigger is generally better.

Substrate: Use a substrate like coconut coir or organic potting soil to retain humidity.

Temperature:

Basking Spot: Provide a basking spot with a temperature of around 29-35°C.

Ambient Temperature: Maintain the overall cage temperature between 24-27°C during the day and no lower than 18°C at night.

Lighting:

UVB Lighting: Panther chameleons require access to UVB light to metabolize calcium properly. Use a UVB light source with a 5.0 or 10.0 rating and replace bulbs every 6-12 months.

Humidity:

Daytime Humidity: Keep humidity levels around 40-60% during the day.

Night-time Humidity: Allow humidity to rise at night, reaching 80-100% to mimic natural conditions.

Diet:

Feeding: Offer a variety of gut-loaded insects, such as crickets, roaches, and silkworms.

Supplements: Dust prey with a calcium supplement at least twice a week and a multivitamin supplement once a week.



Hydration:

Misting: Mist the enclosure at least twice a day to provide drinking water and maintain humidity.

Dripper System: Use a dripper system to simulate rainfall, encouraging drinking behaviour.

Handling:

Minimize handling to reduce stress. When necessary, approach slowly and support the chameleon from below to avoid injury.

Health Considerations:

Health Checks: Regularly observe your crested gecko 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.

Quarantine: Quarantine new geckos before introducing them to existing ones to prevent the spread of disease.

Providing proper care and a suitable environment will contribute to the well-being and longevity of your panther chameleon. Always consult with a reptile veterinarian for specific advice tailored to your chameleon's needs.