

Canadian Specialty Exotics Ltd.

2278 Alexis Road Windsor, Ontario N8W 3Z1

Rob: (519)890-5595

Johnny: (519)982-8534

cse@csexotics.com rob@csexotics.com

www.csexotics.com johnny@csexotics.com



Panther Chameleon (*Furcifer pardalis*) Care Sheet

Caring for your chameleon properly requires that you provide suitable temperatures, proper nutrition, clean water, a safe and secure enclosure/environment, and lots of daily attention to build and maintain trust. If you cannot, or will not provide these things, a chameleon is definitely not the right pet for you.

SUPPLIES:

- 1 - Screened enclosure; minimum 16 inch x 16 inch x 30 inch (or larger).
- 1 - Spray bottle, drip system, or misting system. **Preferred:** Mist King automatic misting system.
- 1 - Mercury vapour bulb with wattage appropriate to the size of the enclosure.
- 1 - Deep Dome ceramic light fixture.
- High Output Desert Species (minimum 10% UVB) fluorescent tube fixture that is appropriate to the height of the enclosure.
- 1 - Light/appliance timer; grounded if you're using grounded light sources.
- Bushy, non-toxic, non-chemically treated live plants that provide lots of basking and hiding spots. These include, but are not limited to, Mulberry trees (*Morus* spp.), Hibiscus trees (*Hibiscus* spp.), Pothos plants (*Epipremnum aureum*), Jade plants (*Crassula argentea*), Umbrella trees (*Schefflera arboricola*), and Benjamin Weeping Fig trees (*Ficus benjamina*).
- Vitamin and mineral supplements: (get one of each) Sticky Tongue Farms Miner-All Outdoor formula, Sticky Tongue Farms Vit-All or Repashy Calcium Plus LoD, and Repashy Vitamin A Plus.
- One appropriately sized feeding container to contain the live, gut-loaded and appropriately dusted insects.

SETUP:

- **DO NOT USE SUBSTRATE IN THE ENCLOSURE AS IT CAN BE INGESTED WHEN THE CHAMELEON IS EATING. THIS CAN CAUSE INTESTINAL IMPACTION WHICH CAN KILL YOUR CHAMELEON.**
- Arrange the plants inside the enclosure so that there are numerous hiding and basking areas. The plants must be tall enough to provide multiple basking areas that begin no closer than 6 inches from of the bulb.
- Place the enclosure in a quiet, draft free location where the ambient temperature is roughly 75°F - 80°F. It can be cooler, but it must not be colder than 70°F. Chameleons can rapidly develop a respiratory tract infection if they are kept in conditions that are too cold.
- Place the Deep Dome light fixture directly on top of the enclosure. Ensure that it covers both the plants and numerous suitable basking areas.
- Place the fluorescent tube fixture either horizontally (directly over your chameleon's favourite perch), or stand it vertically on the side of the enclosure that is closest to your chameleon's favourite perch. Set the timer to a 13/11 - 13 hours of light, 11 hours of darkness, light cycle. On at 7 am, and off at 8 pm works well.

- Plug your Mist King system into the included timer, and set it to run once every 4 hours during daylight hours (8 am, noon, 4 pm, 8 pm), for 1 or 2 minutes at a time. If you are using a different misting system, plug it into the timer that controls the light fixture; you may need a power bar.
- Locate the drip/misting system in such a way that it dispenses water directly over the plants, covering the leaves with water droplets. If your enclosure regularly floods, consider adding live plants, or reduce the misting time and frequency as necessary. If you are using a spray bottle, be sure to liberally spray the enclosure with a fine mist until all the leaves are covered in tiny droplets. Do this a minimum of 3 times per day. Dehydration kills quickly, so more is always better.
- Locate the feeding container where desired. Ensure that your chameleon can easily access it.

FOOD & WATER:

- Feed adult chameleons every other day, and offer as much food as the chameleon will eat. A wide variety of insects should form the foundation of the diet, and they must be continually rotated to avoid boredom and hunger strikes. These include, but are not limited to, soft bodied insects such as butterworms, hornworms, silkworms, and waxworms, as well as hard bodied insects such as cockroaches; captive raised only, crickets; captive raised or wild if collected from a pesticide/herbicide/fertilizer free area, mealworms; including their pupae and beetles, and superworms; including their pupae and beetles. You can also offer fresh fruit and leafy greens, edible flowers and leaves such as Hibiscus and Mulberry, and animal protein such as pinky mice and/or pinky rats. Always gut load all prey items with a high-quality gut load.
- Feed baby chameleons liberally with 4 - 5 times what they'll immediately eat (within 30 minutes) so that they can eat all day long. Offer flightless fruit flies, phoenixworms (Black Soldier fly larvae), and/or 1/8 inch (pinhead) crickets every day until they're able to take the food items that are listed above.
- Handfeeding is a great way to build trust and ensure a strong bond with your chameleon, so make it a priority.
- **Sticky Tongue Farms Miner-All outdoor formula:**
- NEWBORN TO HALF GROWN - Use every feeding.
- HALF GROWN TO SUB ADULT - Use every second feeding.
- ADULTS - Use every third feeding.
- BREEDING FEMALES - Use every second feeding.
- **Sticky Tongue Farms Vit-All or Repashy Calcium Plus LoD:**
- Use once a week in lieu of Miner-All.
- **Repashy Vitamin A Plus:**
- Use once a month in lieu of Miner-All, Vit-All, and Calcium Plus LoD.