

CARING FOR YOUR PANTHER CHAMELEON

Scientific Name: *Furcifer pardalis*

Native to: *Madagascar*

Maximum Length: *Male 12 to 18 inches Females
10 to 14 inches.*

Life Span: *5 to 7 years*



CHARACTERISTICS:

Panther chameleons exhibit many different brilliant color morphs which are named after the geographic location in Madagascar where they come from. Male panther chameleons can grow up to 20 inches in length, and show vibrant colorations of reds, blues, greens and oranges. Females grow to around half the size of males and remain tan or brown, with hints of peach, orange and pink. Unlike the Veiled Chameleon, the panther chameleons are strictly insect eaters and do not require plant matter as part of their diet. These chameleons come from the ambilobe region in northwest Madagascar. Ambilobe Panther Chameleons show one of the widest variations of vibrant colors, including greens, blues, reds, oranges and yellows with primarily blue striping.

CARE TIPS:

Enclosure: Provide a spacious screened enclosure for your Panther Chameleon. An adult male needs more room to explore and should be housed in a cage that is 36 inches long by 36 inches wide by 48 inches tall. Females and young males can be kept in smaller enclosures. A longer enclosure will allow you to provide a warm end and a cooler end for your animal's well-being. The more room you provide for your Panther Chameleon the better. Do not house chameleons together as they are very territorial and stress easily.

Substrate: No specific substrate is needed, but coconut fiber or potting soil with no added chemicals works well.

Habitat: Provide branches and plants (live or fake) for the Panther Chameleon to climb on. Create a dense area of non-toxic plants on one side for hiding and on the other side create a more open exposed area of branches for basking.

Temperature and Lighting: Keep the enclosure 100° F on the warmer end and 70° F at the cool end. Use a UVB-emitting bulb and/or a ceramic heater as primary heat source. Provide 10-12 hours of UVB rays and a ceramic heater for a basking area all day and night.

Food and Water: Feed baby Panther Chameleons once or twice a day and adults every other day. Panther Chameleons eat a variety of live insects, including crickets, mealworms, and waxworms. Dust the insects with a vitamin and calcium supplement mixture once or twice a week. Panther Chameleon prefer to eat insects that are small. It is better to offer them multiple meals of small crickets/small mealworms than to feed them one meal of large insects. They will not usually drink from water bowls, so it is best to mist their enclosure once or twice a day to allow the chameleon to drink moisture off the leaves and branches.