

Furcifer pardalis

Panther Chameleon

Care Guide



A ChameleonAcademy.com
Publication



SCAN ME

For a detailed explanation of each section of this Care Summary, and even more information about Panther Chameleons, you can scan the QR code to be taken directly to the webpage.



Furcifer pardalis Panther Chameleon

Chameleon Academy Care Summary

For detailed information visit <https://chameleonacademy.com/panther-chameleon>



Male



Female



Juvenile

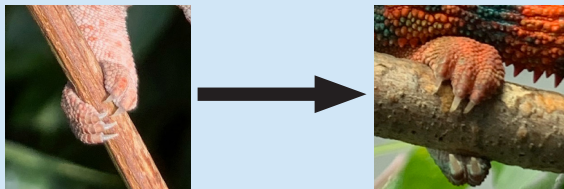
Cage Size

Minimum	2' x 2' x 4' or 36" x 18" x 36"
Custom Build	3' x 2' x 4' or Greater

- **Required:** One chameleon per cage
- **Required:** MUST have suitable perching area behind plants where chameleon can hide entire body from view and block UVB light from above
- **Ideal:** Place cage so top basking branch is above your head height
- Screen, hybrid, or glass cages can be used depending on how much environmental control is necessary
- "Forest Edge" Style with live plants



For perching, use horizontal branches with diameter between chameleon feet reaching all the way to half way around.





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Temperature

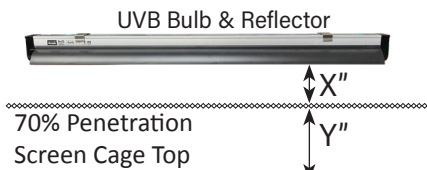
DayTime	72 -78°F / 22-25°C
NightTime	60-70°F /15-21°C
Basking	85°F /29°C

Humidity

DayTime	40% - 50% RH ¹
NightTime	80% to 100% RH ²

¹Ensure that branches and surfaces dry daily
²Provide air movement to avoid stagnant air

UVB

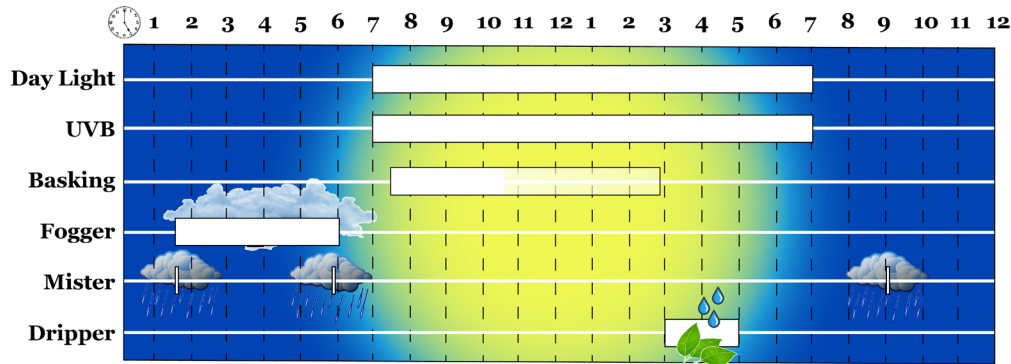


Target Basking UVB = UVI 3
Target Cage Top UVB = UVI 6 - 7.4

Technology	Bulb Strength	X	Y
T5 HO Linear	5.0 or 6%	3"	4"
T5 HO Linear	10.0 or 12%	6"	6"

- X" + Y" distance is from UVB bulb to back of chameleon through a 70% penetration screen top panel of the cage.
- X" + Y" distance is average compromise over bulb lifetime. Use Solarmeter 6.5 for exact measurements.
- Bulb must have a dedicated reflector.

Hydration & Lighting



Mister cycles are 1-2 minutes in length

Feeding

Age	Frequency	Quantity
Growing or Gravid	Every day	No Limit
Adult	Every other day	3-4 Feeders

Ideal feeder length is equal to the distance between the eyes



Supplementation (Basking UVI 3 Required)

Every Feeding	Twice per Month
Calcium, <u>NO</u> Vit D3 Examples: 	Multi-Vitamin with up to 20k IU/lb Vit D3 200k IU/lb Vit A Examples:



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Chameleon Academy Breeding Summary

For detailed information visit <https://chameleonacademy.com/panther-chameleon>



Non-receptive Female



Receptive Female



Gravid Female Coloration



Female Laying eggs



Male

Thicker Tail, Slight Bulge

Carolyn Laframboise

Hatchling Male Vent Profile



Female

Skinnier, Straight Tail base

Carolyn Laframboise

Hatchling Female Vent Profile

Breeding Stats

Sexual Maturity	≈ 8 Months ¹
Reproduction	Egg Laying
Clutch Size	20-34 ²
Gestation	1 month
Incubation Temp	74°F / 23°C
Incubation Time	7-12 months

¹ Wait for adult coloration

² Larger clutches are possible with excess food, but not necessarily healthy for the chameleon



Fertile Egg

Infertile Egg

Laying Bin

Substrate:

50% organic soil

50% playsand

Soil Depth: 4" - 5"

Visual privacy during laying!

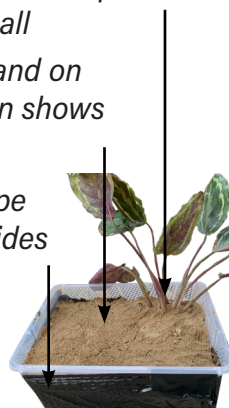
Consult website for breeding details

Optional: Include live plant to provide root ball

Optional: sprinkle sand on surface so disruption shows laying spot.

If using clear bin, tape black trash bag to sides for visual block

Remove bag to see egg location



Baby Raising

Individual raising is ideal

Heavily planted

Feed as much as babies will eat

Beware of excessive heat/UVB

Consult website for hatchling care





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Chameleon Academy Medical Summary

For detailed information visit <https://chameleonacademy.com/panther-chameleon>

High level ID only. Consult with veterinarian for care.

Metabolic Bone Disorder (MBD)

Description: Improper body growth and function due to calcium deficiency.

Symptoms: Bowed legs, unable to hold body up, weakened bone structures, curved elbows, misaligned jaws, sunken casque

Treatment: Correct husbandry. Vet care to rehabilitate damage

Prevention: Proper calcium intake and UVB lighting (or Vit D3)



Edema

Description: An internal imbalance, probably from supplementation

Symptoms: fluid retained. Usually around neck area.

Treatment: remove supplementation besides calcium from diet

Prevention: Edema appears to be linked to over-supplementation and edema slowly goes down over a few months after discontinuing use of supplements with fat soluble vitamins (D3, A, etc...)



Prolapse

Description: Hemipenes, intestines, oviduct hanging out of vent

Symptoms: Internal organs are outside vent and will not stay in

Treatment: get to vet ASAP. Keep prolapse moist with sugar water

Prevention: Prolapse can be caused by many things including dehydration and heavy parasite load. Evaluate husbandry to determine cause.



Bacterial Infection

Description: immune system is compromised

Symptoms: swelling in mouth or eyes, or head tilted up

Treatment: Requires antibiotics from vet ASAP

Prevention: Husbandry related. Inadequate husbandry weakens immune system and allows bacteria to flourish unchecked.



Closed Eyes/Internal Distress/Vitamin A Deficiency

Description: Could be respiratory infection, vitamin A deficiency, high parasite load, or other internal damage/distress. Also occurs in high emotional distress.

Symptoms: Eyes are closed during the day

Treatment: Consult vet for accurate diagnosis.

Prevention: Proper husbandry, balanced nutrition and fecal check for parasites





Chameleon Academy

How To Use Care Sheets

Care sheets are just starting points

A care sheet represents the ideal conditions, as we currently understand them, that have worked for the widest number of that chameleon species. This is an average. Your chameleon is an individual in your unique environmental conditions. Therefore, it should be no surprise if something needs to be adjusted as you observe your chameleon's behavior. Does he want the basking bulb on for longer? Does he need more hydration? Use this care sheet only to establish your initial parameters, but then **listen to what your chameleon is telling you!** These parameters are meant to get you started, not to lock you in to certain numbers. Your chameleon is the expert in what chameleons need! But make sure you fully understand the situation before changing the parameter. This is where constant study of chameleon behavior is imperative for successful long term chameleon keeping.

Further Research Opportunities

Each Chameleon Academy care summary has a website link that will take you to a deeper discussion regarding each parameter. This is the first step to deeper understanding of the parameters. The rest of the website will then provide more general context. The Chameleon Academy outreach includes two podcasts: The **Panther Chameleon Podcast** and the **Chameleon Academy Podcast** with over 300 episodes interviewing the top keepers, breeders, veterinarians, and scientists in the world. These podcasts are available on any major podcast playing app, a dedicated free Chameleon Academy iTunes/Google Play app, and on the <https://ChameleonAcademy.com> website. You may also consult the **Chameleon Academy YouTube channel** for video tutorials.

Encouraged use of this care summary

These care summaries are meant for community use. You are welcome to use these care summaries on your websites, Facebook groups, to hand out to clients, to print out for shows, or any other application which calls for chameleon care information. Do not modify the information and please use these care sheets in their entirety. If you use Chameleon Academy care information then you may refer any questions you may get about the parameters listed here to me. If the question is not answered in my website details then I will answer it personally.

Conflicting Husbandry Advice

There are diverse experiences in the community and each person can speak only to what they know. Therefore, you will find conflicting advice throughout the community. Your best approach to dealing with these differences is to do your research into the person you trust the most or is directly involved with helping you. The most obvious choice is to follow the advice of the breeder who is helping you with your first chameleon. Do not worry if other people say differently. Follow your chosen person until you are comfortable enough with chameleon keeping that you can decide on a different approach.