



## Yemen Helmet Chameleon

Adequate temperature		
	Hot spot	Cold spot
Day temperature	30 °C	20 °C
Night temperature	20 °C	18 °C

### Main Features :

The Yemeni Chameleon is a species living in a humid tropical environment that loves to climb. A chameleon of this species can reach between 40-60 cm for males and 25-35 cm for females and can live up to 8 years. It is not recommended to keep several chameleons in captivity in the same vivarium/terrarium, as it is a solitary animal that is very territorial. He can easily become aggressive towards his peers. The male can be differentiated from the female by the following characteristics: usually larger than the female, the colors are more vivid, presence of a bulge under the tail (hemipenis) and the helmet is larger. Chameleons have a peculiarity very specific to their species: it has a telescopic tongue. This reptile is not suitable for beginners because of its complex maintenance.

### Captivity:

The Yemeni Chameleon's habitat must be at least 90 cm x 90 cm x 120 cm and have a cover, heating system and lighting system emitting ultraviolet rays. As mentioned above, the iguana likes to climb! It is therefore important that its habitat is more vertical than horizontal. It is therefore necessary to provide him with strong branches where he can climb at will. The addition of small "solid" branches and foliage will allow it to hide in order to feel safe. The chameleons like to drink their water from droplets falling on the leaves. The addition of a vaporizer (FOGGER) of water is strongly advisable and essential to obtain an adequate habitat. Spraying the leaves 2 to 3 times a day will allow it to have a sufficient amount of water. The degree of humidity (50-70%) and the temperature (see the table above) must be carefully monitored to preserve the health of your chameleon. To maintain the proper temperature, the use of a heating mat, out of reach of the animal can be used as well as a heat lamp not accessible for the latter. The carpet must be installed under the terrarium in order to avoid any direct contact. If the animal has access to the heating source, the risk of burns is close to 100%. A reptile does not feel the heat on its skin, it is only once it is too late that it feels the injury. The chameleon must have a UVA-UVB lamp in its habitat! This lamp is essential to his good health because it provides a source of calcium that is normally provided by the sun during his tanning sessions. This lamp should work 10-12h per day and be changed every 6 months to maintain its effectiveness! At night this lamp should be off, unlike the heat lamp that must work all day. In order to better control the time of exposure to UVA-UVB light, the degree of humidity and to maintain an adequate temperature, it is strongly recommended to obtain a

thermometer and a hygrometer to better control the variants. The ideal is to get a thermostat that will regulate the temperature and humidity and a timer to better control the UV lighting time, but it is important to make sure that it always works, even after several years! The substrate is not essential, because this species stands high. The addition of an easily cleanable surface (paper towels, tarpaulin, etc.) is required. A gravel or sand substrate is not recommended because of the risk of the animal ingesting this product, which can cause intestinal blockage.



### **Food:**

The chameleon is an omnivorous species, that is, it eats almost everything! Passing through insects (to goliath (the most nutritious), crickets, waxed worms, silkworms, butterworms and mealworms alive or dead), plants (lettuce, dandelion leaves (not treated with insecticides), carrot leaves and sometimes even young mice. It is important to diversify the diet of your chameleon. There are some commercial foods, but they are not proven. The chameleon is sensitive to develop a deficiency in calcium, therefore, it is recommended to supplement your diet with calcium and multivitamin powder, 2-3 times a week.

### **Frequent health problems:**

- **Metabolic Bone Disease:** The lizard may suffer from anorexia, tremors, swelling around the bones, lethargy, or bone malformations due to old fractures.
- **Infections:** Infections can occur in the mouth (stomatitis), on the skin (bacterial or fungal) or in the form of abscess. This condition is often the cause of poor nutrition, excess moisture or poor hygiene.
- **Moult problem:** A reptile moults several times a year. The moult consists of a change of skin. The animal grows up and the scales become too tight on it. He develops new ones and the old ones have to leave. A moult problem occurs when the degree of humidity is not adequate. If your pet has difficulty moulting, do not pull on the molt. Give it a bath of lukewarm water instead.
- **Parasites:** A lizard can sometimes catch parasites in many ways, such as having been outside, being in a boarding house or pet store or coming from their live food (mice, insects, etc.). If the animal is not treated following the appearance of parasites, it could become anemic and die. Parasites feed on your pet's blood, where they can find the nutrients they need for survival.
- **Cloacal Prolapse:** A cloacal prolapse is an externalization of part of the digestive system of your reptile. It is therefore possible to see part of the intestine of your reptile out its cloaca (opening that connects the anus and the reproductive system).

As with all animals, it is recommended to perform an examination after purchasing a new reptile. An annual checkup helps prevent any health problems that may occur and thus save the life of your pet. If in doubt, a visit to the veterinarian is required! A reptile, whatever it is, will hide its symptoms so as not to become an easy prey for predators (humans). At the slightest change in behavior, contact your veterinarian.

