

# Veiled Chameleon Care & Info

## - Simplified

Where they originated determines their care:

Yemen or Veiled chameleons originate in the Saudi Arabia peninsula in Yemen. This region has moderate temperatures with rainfall ranging from arid to moderately plentiful in the mountain regions. Night humidity is higher, and night temperatures are lower. Clearly, living in the wild, these chameleons experience coastal breezes and a natural environment with good airflow.

Where they live now determines how we care for them:

Indoors, we attempt to replicate outdoor keeping but with the challenges of lower airflow, less evaporation of moisture, a lack of sunlight and a lack of naturally nourished wild feeders than outdoors would provide. For this reason, caging, misting, and temperatures will be adjusted to balance out the more stagnant air and lower air flow of indoor environments.

## CARE BASICS:

### CAGE SIZE:

Over 3 months, chameleons should have at least 36" high, 18" deep and 24" wide cages – vertically oriented.

Examples:

- Reptibreeze XL 24x24x48
- Exo Terra Screen 18d x 36w x 36h

\*Screen is ideal; glass should be done with a mentor or only experienced keepers. No “fish tanks on sides”. Think VERTICAL orientation\*

**PLANTS:** Live plants are safe and will be less likely to choke and kill chameleons. They also provide more hygienic drinking surfaces and climbing spots.

**BRANCHES:** Natural or artificial without moss.

Examples:

- Oak branches (hose wash, sun dry) or other safe non-pine, non-conifer wood.
- Flukers BendABranch
- Willow branches, sanded
- Bamboo only if roughed up and smaller than the chameleon's grip.

**DÉCOR:** The top 2/3 of the enclosure, from 10” down, should be filled with branches and clumps of foliage. Two branches 10” from the UVB should be available for UVB Basking. A branch 12” Under the basking light to one side should be available for warming. The bottom should be nearly empty, free of substrate (unless one does fully bioactive). No water features.

**UVB LIGHTING:** \*\* not sold in stores generally\*\*

T5HO type, 24” or longer fixture (the length of your enclosure)

- 10.0 Zoomed or 12% Arcadia. (NO T8 or dome).

Place on top only – centered on the top of the enclosure, directly on the enclosure.

\*Do not suspend UVB lighting – it must be on the cage top for correct power. Replace bulbs every 6-8 months even if the light shines.

**BASKING LIGHTING:** Incandescent, regular household flood bulb. BR30 or BR40 type (not LED). GE and Phillips plant floods work well.

**TEMPERATURES/BASKING:** 88-94 degrees F measured on the basking branch (preferably with a laser temp gun) at least 1 hour after lights-on. Use a DOME FIXTURE, deep dome.

**TEMPERATURES/AMBIENT:** 72 to 82 is ideal. Night temperatures can be lower depending on age and health.

**NIGHT/DAYLIGHT LIGHTS** No red or “night” lights, no obviously colored lights. It should be completely dark at night.

**SUPPLEMENTS/CALCIUM:**

Calcium without D3

- daily for babies
- 6 days a week over 3 months of age,
- 5 days a week sub adult
- 3-4 times a week for adults (every feeding)

**SUPPLEMENTS/D3:** Majority provided by T5HO lighting.

- Repashy Supercal Nod

**SUPPLEMENTS/MULTIVITAMIN:** (Twice-monthly)

- Repashy Calcium Plus LoD
  - or –
- Repashy Calcium Plus (regular)

**HYDRATION/WATERING:** Via hand or mechanical misting in the morning at least, in the evening if needed. 1-2 minutes. No misting mid-day. Drippers are highly recommended, 1 cup dropping 1 drop per second in the morning.

**HUMIDITY:** Should be achieved by fogging/misting at least 30 min-1 hr prior to lights on/off to simulate a brief rain shower. With lower holding humidity, misting can be done in the morning and evening. With higher holding humidity, misting can be reduced to once a day either at am/pm. The enclosure should have a reduced humidity level through the day and increased humidity in the morning/evening/night.

- Nighttime - 85-95% with a cool open air environment.

- Daytime - levels should be allowed to drop to ambient local/household levels. No lower than 15%

\*NEVER mist during the daytime, in combination with lights and heat of day this can easily create a steam room/sauna type atmosphere, potentially resulting in upper respiratory infections\*

**FOGGING:** This is beneficial at night only – one or two hours at 4 a.m.

**FEEDING:** Live insects (a variety):

- 6 days a week juvenile
- 5 days a week sub-adult
- 3-4 days a week for adults.

\*Amounts vary by insect type and condition of your chameleon – but generally babies and juveniles should be fed as much as they want in the morning – so that they eat all feeders by evening\*

**FEEDERS:** Dubia roaches, superworms (in moderation), crickets, moths, black soldier fly larvae, silkworms, locusts, various flies all make great staples – provide a variety. Hornworms and waxworms for occasional treats. Butterworms and mealworms are not recommended due to reaction potential and low nutrition.

**OTHER FOODS:** Chameleons will take bites out of plants and will eat nearly anything; however, as primary insectivores 95% of the weight of their diet should be live insects dusted with supplements.

**FEEDING AND WATERING THE FEEDERS:** Chameleons gain nutrition/hydration from bugs. Be sure to always provide lots of natural foods filled with moisture to your bugs to better hydrate your chameleon. Cotton make-up removing pads soaked with water placed in a shallow lid in the insect enclosures can be used to hydrate insects wonderfully and without unnecessary gels or other fake chemically produced products. The emphasis should be on raw natural plant matter high in nutrition. Carrots, collard greens, mustard greens, sweet potatoes, bee pollen are all great choices; potatoes, bananas, and apples are lower nutrition.

**SEXING AND BREEDING:** Veiled chameleons are egg layers and females are sexually receptive 6 months and older. Females should be given a “lay bin” filled with moist dirt that, if balled up

in the fist, will hold its shape without crumbling. The laybin should be at least 8” deep, 12” wide, and 15” long. (12 qt dishpans are the minimum size). Laybins should not be see-through but opaque sided.

Sexing: Males have vertical barring with distinct outlines, larger casques, larger spurs, and a bulge at the base of their tale past their vent opening. Females have smaller casques, may have spurs, rarely have outlines around their vertical barring and no bulge except for their vent opening on the base of their tale.

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## SUPPLEMENT LINKS

### Calcium w/o D3

Great: Repashy SuperCal NoD (as described above) with T5HO lighting:

<https://www.amazon.com/Repashy-SuperCal-NoD-Oz-JAR/dp/B00N3BKCGA>

Good: ZoomedCalciumwithoutD3 <https://tinylink.net/KICX6>

Great: MinerAll OUTDOOR Calcium [http://www.illreptile.com/products/386-sticky-tongue-minerall-outdoor-formula?gclid=CjwKCAjw1cX0BRBmEiwAy9tKHqbzd0EoVHZ--lcL5PZkndmajwYqHL4l\\_MjY6TDJzG3Bbo8YpnXazhoCawMQAvD\\_BwE](http://www.illreptile.com/products/386-sticky-tongue-minerall-outdoor-formula?gclid=CjwKCAjw1cX0BRBmEiwAy9tKHqbzd0EoVHZ--lcL5PZkndmajwYqHL4l_MjY6TDJzG3Bbo8YpnXazhoCawMQAvD_BwE)

### MULTIVITAMIN / twice monthly:

Great: Repashy Calcium Plus LoD (twice a month under T5HO lighting:

<https://www.amazon.com/Repashy-Calcium-Plus-LoD-JAR/dp/B00DLJRMV2>

Also good: Reptivite with D3 [https://www.amazon.com/Zoo-Med-Reptivite-Vitamin-2-Ounce/dp/B0002AQB6A/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=reptivite&qid=1586632291&s=pets-supplies&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Zoo-Med-Reptivite-Vitamin-2-Ounce/dp/B0002AQB6A/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=reptivite&qid=1586632291&s=pets-supplies&sr=1-1)

Also good: Repashy Calcium Plus (regular) [https://www.amazon.com/Repashy-Calcium-Plus-17-6-500g/dp/B00RM7RL0Q/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?dchild=1&keywords=repashy+calcium+plus&qid=1586632325&s=pets-supplies&sr=1-2](https://www.amazon.com/Repashy-Calcium-Plus-17-6-500g/dp/B00RM7RL0Q/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=repashy+calcium+plus&qid=1586632325&s=pets-supplies&sr=1-2)

### LIGHTING LINKS:

10.0 t5HO (reptisun) or 12% D3 desert (Arcadia)

### Reptile Basics

<https://www.reptilebasics.com/arcadia-desert-12-uvb/arcadia-d3-12-uvb-t5-bulb-22/>

With this fixture: <https://www.reptilebasics.com/t5-light-fixtures/t5-ho-single-bulb-light-strip-24/>

## Pangea reptile

- <https://www.pangeareptile.com/store/arcadia-12-uvb-t5-reptile-bulb.html> – 22” or longer
- <https://www.pangeareptile.com/store/zoo-med-reptisun-10.0-uvb-t5.html> – 22” or longer Pair with one of these fixtures:
- <https://www.pangeareptile.com/store/t5-uvb-light-fixture.html>
- <https://www.pangeareptile.com/store/zoo-med-reptisun-t5-ho-terrarium-hood.html> - 24” or Longer

## REPTILESUPPLYCO.COM

Choose one of these bulbs:

- <https://www.reptilesupplyco.com/t5-uvb-bulbs/2968-d3-12-uvb-t5-bulb-22-arcadia.html>
- <https://www.reptilesupplyco.com/t5-uvb-bulbs/1878-reptisun-100-uvb-t5-ho-fluorescent-bulb-22-zoo-med.html>

Pair with one of these fixtures:

- <https://www.reptilesupplyco.com/wholesale-reptile-hoods-domes-fixtures/1884-reptisun-terrarium-hood-t5-24-zoo-med.html>
- <https://www.reptilesupplyco.com/wholesale-reptile-hoods-domes-fixtures/3305-t5-uvb-light-reflector-24-lugarti.html>

## CAGE EXAMPLES:

Exoterra L/TX :

- <https://www.illreptile.com/products/32604-exo-terra-Screen-terrarium-large-tall>

Reptibreeze XL:

- <https://www.petsmart.com/reptile/habitats-and-decor/terrariums/zoo-med-reptibreeze-open-air-reptile-screen-cage-14983.html>
- <https://www.illreptile.com/products/11725-zoo-med-xlarge-repti-breeze-aluminum-screen-cage>

Dragonstrand (be sure to buy ledges):

- <https://dragonstrand.com/product/tall-screen-chameleon-cage-system/>
- FLChams Cages:
- <https://flchams.com/chameleon/24x24x48-chameleon-cages-for-sale/>

## DÉCOR AND PLANT LINKS:

FLUKERS BEND-A-BRANCH – order medium:

- [https://www.chewy.com/flukers-bend-branch-reptiles/dp/129127?utm\\_source=google-product&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=hg&utm\\_content=Fluker%27s&utm\\_term=&gclid=CjwKCAjw1cX0BRBmEiwAy9tKHgumyIKo5K66zAE6altfwYSOk1PZqr0T2RY1Pg-QQ5vA\\_pJLpybVLxoCE78QAvD\\_BwE](https://www.chewy.com/flukers-bend-branch-reptiles/dp/129127?utm_source=google-product&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=hg&utm_content=Fluker%27s&utm_term=&gclid=CjwKCAjw1cX0BRBmEiwAy9tKHgumyIKo5K66zAE6altfwYSOk1PZqr0T2RY1Pg-QQ5vA_pJLpybVLxoCE78QAvD_BwE) (These are \$3 a piece – a must-have)

#### EXO TERRA BRANCHES:

- [https://www.chewy.com/exo-terra-jungle-vine-reptiles/dp/129085?utm\\_source=google-product&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=hg&utm\\_content=Exo%20Terra&utm\\_term=&gclid=CjwKCAjw1cX0BRBmEiwAy9tKHtAiGpdYbxdJH5\\_ZZ8wecXEaFxdJMc8cV8-HdhJriQZZDTsdPgp5hoCrfMQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.chewy.com/exo-terra-jungle-vine-reptiles/dp/129085?utm_source=google-product&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=hg&utm_content=Exo%20Terra&utm_term=&gclid=CjwKCAjw1cX0BRBmEiwAy9tKHtAiGpdYbxdJH5_ZZ8wecXEaFxdJMc8cV8-HdhJriQZZDTsdPgp5hoCrfMQAvD_BwE)

#### MASS CANE PLANTS (use with branches around the foliage):

- [https://www.lowes.com/pd/Costa-Farms-10-in-Mass-Cane-in-Plastic-in-Planter-Mc1b/1000605107?cm\\_mmc=shp\\_-c\\_-prd\\_-lwn\\_-google\\_-pla\\_-123\\_-sosinternet-livenursery\\_-1000605107\\_-0&placeholder=null&gclid=CjwKCAjw1cX0BRBmEiwAy9tKHjTb2VdZoWj\\_DNEmKRnQoV1bv3FCw5bGJHQFfpffJLK3Kef0CDBANxoC10wQAvD\\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.lowes.com/pd/Costa-Farms-10-in-Mass-Cane-in-Plastic-in-Planter-Mc1b/1000605107?cm_mmc=shp_-c_-prd_-lwn_-google_-pla_-123_-sosinternet-livenursery_-1000605107_-0&placeholder=null&gclid=CjwKCAjw1cX0BRBmEiwAy9tKHjTb2VdZoWj_DNEmKRnQoV1bv3FCw5bGJHQFfpffJLK3Kef0CDBANxoC10wQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)
- <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Delray-Plants-Mass-Cane-Dracaena-fragrans-Corn-Plant-Easy-to-Grow-Live-House-Plant-10-inch-Grower-s-Pot/39195706>

#### MAJESTY PALM (use with branches around the foliage):

- <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Delray-Plants-Majesty-Palm-Ravenea-rivularis-Easy-to-Grow-Live-House-Plant-10-inch-Grower-Pot/39195705>

#### SCHEFFLERA PLANT (requires less branches):

- <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Delray-Plants-Schefflera-Arbicola-Gold-Capella-Easy-to-Grow->