

# Veiled Chameleons

**Common Name:** Veiled Chameleon, **Latin name:** *Chameleo calyptratus*

**Native to:** Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

**Size:** Males can get up to 18". Females get a little smaller.

**Life span:** They live up to 5 years.

**General appearance:** This is the cone headed (veiled) chameleon. Colors are generally green and yellow, but the green areas can also be blue, and the yellow areas can be orange. Stressed specimens can darken to brown or black.



## Housing Requirements

**Enclosure:** No aquariums! They need well-ventilated cages with cross ventilation. At least 2 sides of the cage need to be screen. An all screen cage is best.

**Temperature:** Daytime basking temperatures of 100° are needed. A cool area of 80° is needed. A nighttime temperature drop to 70° is recommended.

**Heat/Light:** If being kept indoors, both UV and basking lights are needed for vitamin D absorption.

When providing heat, do **NOT** use hot rocks. Hot rocks are notoriously unpredictable and can cause serious burn injuries to your animal. Red basking bulbs or ceramic emitters can be used to generate basking spots. It is recommended to routinely check the temperatures of the enclosure with thermometers.

**Substrate:** Newspaper or large bark chips are good substrates. Anything else and you risk their tongue picking it up.

**Environment:** Climbing sticks, vines, branches, live or fake plants are needed since they are tree dwellers. Stress is the number one killer of baby chameleons. **Do not handle them!**

**Diet:** They eat insects such as crickets, superworms, etc. Some will also try to eat veggies. Do not feed mealworms to the babies! Insects should be gut-loaded and dusted with calcium. Water needs to be moving by using a dripper or melting ice cubes. Water bowls will not work.

**Maintenance:** Fresh water should be offered daily. Periodically, the enclosure should be disinfected. A 5% bleach solution makes an excellent disinfectant. Be sure to rinse the enclosure thoroughly after disinfecting.

Remember that in many places it is illegal to take wildlife out of the wild without the proper permits from local, state, or federal authorities. Please do not release any captive reptiles or amphibians into the wild as this will disrupt the natural order of our environment.

**Austin Herpetological Society**  
[www.austinherpsociety.org](http://www.austinherpsociety.org)