



Jackson's Chameleon *Chamaeleo jacksonii*

- The Jackson's chameleon is found in forested regions of eastern Africa. Also introduced in Hawaii, Florida, and several other areas.
- The Jackson's chameleon is characterized by its green base color with three prominent horns in males, and absent or greatly reduced horns in females.
- Chameleons will change color depending on their health, current mood, and overall temperatures.
- Chameleons are specialized tree dwellers, and have prehensile tails and "zygodactyl" feet for gripping and climbing.
- Eyes can function and rotate independently of one another.
- If provided the proper care, Jackson's chameleons can attain longevity of 4-10 years on average depending on male or female. Males are generally larger and longer lived than females.

Size

Adult Jackson's chameleons range in size from 7" to 10" on average.

Housing

Housing must be sealed, well ventilated, and escape proof. Provide a minimum of a 2' X 2' X 3' fully screened tall enclosure for adults. Provide ample artificial foliage, driftwood, rocks, vines, branches or logs for ample basking, climbing, and hiding opportunities. Substrate is optional, but substrates such as cypress mulch, sphagnum moss, or coconut fiber can be used. Jackson's chameleons do not recognize standing water in a water bowl; instead mist them at least twice daily for moisture and hydration.

Provide a lighting and temperature gradient for Jackson's chameleons from 80 degrees F to 85 degrees F. Use an infrared night time bulb to create nighttime temperature gradients of 75 to 85 degrees F. Use florescent, broad spectrum, and UVB lighting (as well as exposure to natural sunlight) for optimal health of Jackson's chameleons.

Spot clean the enclosure for urates, feces, or uneaten food at least twice per week. Be sure to periodically replace the substrate, clean, and disinfect the enclosure and its furnishings at minimum every 2-3 months.

Feeding/Diet

In the wild, Jackson's chameleons are primarily insectivores. In captivity, feed Jackson's chameleons a varied insect/invertebrate diet of crickets, mealworms, waxworms, feeder roaches, and even earthworms. Feed Jackson's chameleons 2-3 times weekly. Gutload feeder insects by feeding them quality diets, and dust them with calcium and vitamin D3 for added nutritional value. Offer food in a small dish or pan or by hand.

Handling

Jackson's chameleons will generally not tolerate frequent handling, and it should be kept to low levels. Should a chameleon be handled, it is important to remember to not forcefully pick up the animal, which may lead to further stress and/or injury. Allow a chameleon to walk onto your hands or gently coax them to do so if possible. Generally, chameleons are better suited as display animals.

Also be sure to practice basic cleanliness and hygiene associated with proper husbandry after touching or handling any animals or animal enclosures to prevent the possibility of contracting salmonellosis or any other zoonotic pathogens