



Petr's Posts



WHY THERE IS SO MUCH CONFUSION IN DEFINING THE RIGHT CLIMATIC CONDITIONS FOR THE VEILED CHAMELEONS?

The recommendation of climatic factors necessary for captive management of the Veileds differ dramatically. From high temperatures to low from dry-no-misting recommendations to misting intensely several times a day.

All recommendations are based on experience and survival of the animals. All are valid and all are wrong same time. We are lucky that the Veiled is so much ecologically adaptable, that they can survive very different care and conditions...

Confusion? Yes!

So, what is correct if everything and nothing?!

The only enlightening comes from understanding the climate of Yemen. Veileds are born at the beginning of the rain period (March) they grow fast and reproduce within 5-6 months (till August) then the dry season starts and within this, almost all adults die...

So, for adulthood of the Veiled, the dry desert-like climate is typical and it is actually rather cold with night drops falling down to the 40s and daytime temperature staying within 70s max. During the dry season almost all Veileds die in the wild.

In the captivity, at least in layman pet-ownership style of captive management, no one cares for simulating the rainy and dry season but wants to have a universal mode kept all the time to be considered "optimal".

So, we decide either to keep them like they would live as adults in the wild or we pretend they would live further and keep them in permanent rainy summer.

So, there are technically two extreme options:

DRY SEASON:

This means no misting required if we provide enough water to drink. And we should keep the temps down and feed very scarcely, even up to 3-4 feeders per week only.

Benefit: they slow down their metabolism, do not move too much and stay alive very long, with almost no problems with skin, eyes, respiration. Females either stop laying eggs, lay smaller clutches or do it in bigger intervals

Risk level: LOW

Or

RAINY SEASON:

we keep the temperatures high as in summer and mist them several times a day.

Benefit: none

Risk level: high



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Because of the overwatering, often skin and respiratory diseases and eye infections happen. The faster metabolism supports MBD to appear if mistakes in husbandry happen, increased food intake easily leads to obesity and subsequent failure of inner organs, problems to lay eggs etc.

Females lay eggs several times per season, regardless fertile or infertile

What is correct?

Neither of those and both of those.

My personal recommendation is:

OPTIMAL CHOICE: simulate the seasons and make difference between the rainy and dry periods. The reason why they almost all die is less climate, more food non-availability and predation.

GOOD CHOICE: Simulate dry season permanently

BAD CHOICE: Simulate rainy season permanently

Important note:

All above is for ADULT VEILED

JUVENILES grow up in the rainy season, therefore rainy season simulation is required

This is also why we have so many problems if people buy their first chameleon in pet stores as a juvenile!

Either it will not grow properly if we keep cage condition like for an adult or we grow them properly but continue with simulation permanent rainy summer and get all the negative consequences discussed above

To explain this a pet owner with first chameleon experience and require to get actually two types of the cages and equipment is too much asked for.

Therefore, the BEST solution is: buy an almost fully grown baby from a reputable breeder and simulate a mild permanent dry season further on