

CAGING AND CARE

SHOUT

EXPLANATION

It is not natural!

Let us not try to outsmart the Mother Nature! The science still owes all us too many explanations, so that we hardly can do any better than in the wild. Let us simulate the vital factors and eliminate the lethal ones.

Too hot in general!

People often believe, the chameleons like it hot because they come from tropical countries. Not true. Therefore, chameleons are often overheated and die young because of the speeded-up metabolism. Study the climatic charts and rather go lower than higher in temperatures!

Do not let them bask all day!

Chameleons as a rule do not bask all day long, they limit the basking time to half an hour in the morning and half an hour in the evening. Allowing them to bask all day long shortens tremendously their lifespan and damages their natural cycles.

Too hot at night!

Chameleons love it cold at night! If we force them to spend the night at high temperatures, they cannot sleep and regenerate. They become weak, ill, egg bound and die soon. Allow a deep night drop in temperatures!

The cage is too small!

In the wild, Chameleons live in an open space: big bushes and tall trees. In captivity, the cages are often very small. The ultimate rule for chameleons' cage size is: "the bigger the better!" The bigger the cage, the more space for natural behaviour, thermoregulation, hiding, exposure, comfort and wellbeing.

The ventilation is insufficient!

Chameleons live in the wild in open space in bushes and trees, where air exchange happens very intensively and permanently thanks to wind. Small glass cages with insufficient ventilation are deadly traps for them. Provide them well ventilated cages, best at least partly made of mesh. Care for intense air movement using additional ventilators.

No substrate!

Chameleons live in the wild high up in the canopies of bushes and trees, they do not live close to ground, so except for females to lay eggs, no substrate is necessary. On contrary, it brings problems like dust, contamination and if swallowed, constipation and death. Go either for no substrate or go bioactive.

No plastic in cage!

Chameleons live in the wild on living, breathing and flourishing vegetation, not on plastic, which is toxic, unnatural and dangerous in case of ingestion and traumas. Always provide the captive chameleons with a network of thin natural branches and living plants with lots of foliage and allow them to make benefit of the interaction with them.

Do not sterilize the branches!

If collecting natural branches from a clean area outside, do not sterilise, treat with chemicals, disinfect, bake, bleach, freeze, peel them. Rinse them simply with cold water and allow them to use their natural properties and structure to build support and proper environment for captive chameleons.

No bamboo!

Chameleons as a rule do not live on bamboo in the wild for many reasons, like too slippery surface, too big diameter, too sterile and insect-less environment, dangerous fibres for their soles. Do not force them to run on bamboo in captivity, there is a huge choice of suitable natural branches and living plants.

Do not cuddle!

Chameleons hate anything touching their bodies, they don't like to be handled. Unnecessary handling, manipulation, exposure to unnatural environments and cuddling causes immense stress that can result in discomfort or even death. Leave chameleons alone in their spacy and perfectly equipped cages and learn from observing them.

Be not scared by your chameleon!

The chameleon is not made from sugar. If you need to handle, handle it, if it is in the interest of its comfort, health or life. Do not handle it for fun. If handling, be quick and efficient and careful. Do not hold it, just let it crawl on your hand alone. Do not be afraid of your chameleon to bite you, it is 1000times smaller than you!

PETR'S HALLOWEEN CHAMELEON NIGHTMARES

OVER FEED
OVER HEAT
OVER HYDRATE

...AND MANY MOORRRRE...

NUTRITION AND HYDRATION

SHOUT	EXPLANATION
Your chameleon is fat!	Most of the captive chameleons are obese. Obesity leads to discomfort, sterility, laziness, health problems, organ failures and early death. Chameleons are not able to regulate the food intake, so we need to monitor their size and weight and when they start gain weight and do not grow any more, we need to limit their food intake and monitor and adjust it further.
Do not feed wrong feeders!	In captivity, as a rule, we do not feed chameleons what is their natural food spectrum in the wild, but we feed them with something, which they never eat in the wild. This brings lots of problems. In case of farmed feeders, do not feed adult roaches (uric acid), adult desert or migratory locusts (phosphorus) mealworms, and BSFL (BSF yes). In case of wild caught feeders, do not feed orange butterflies, fireflies, hairy caterpillars, lady bugs, brightly coloured grasshoppers and black or purple big beetles.
Do not be afraid feeding bees!	Pollinators including bees and wasps are a substantial part of the natural diet of many species of Chameleons. For millions of years they make a big benefit from eating them and their nutritious bodies full of sugar, nectar and bee pollen. There is no reason why not to feed them with these insects and there are many benefits why yes. To protect the declining bee populations, beekeepers can be consulted to provide old or sick bees or drones.
Do not supplement wrong way!	Nutrients and especially supplements have to be given to the organism in a proper dose. If the dose is too small or absent, the organism suffers from not receiving it, but some can act as very strong poisons when overdosed. Use the supplementation schedule from the care sheets in every detail and never combine different approaches.
Feed bee pollen!	Chameleons often feed on bees and other pollinators in the wild. These feeders are dusted with pollen and have intestines full of it, so, pollen is a natural integral part of chameleon's diet. It contains lots of nutrients, sugar, vitamins, micro-elements, amino acids and natural antibiotics and is very beneficial for their health.
Do not gutload with nonsense!	Chameleons are very often recommended to be fed with feeders, which have been fed shortly before being swallowed with many unnatural food components, which chameleons cannot digest and are even potentially harmful for them. Feed your feeders variable and nutritious diet to have high nutritious value. Use gutloading prior to feeding for transporting natural substances to chameleon's intestines (such as bee pollen, nectar and hay) and/or provide them with medicaments or supplements.
Do not mist at daytime!	If it rains during the day in the wild, the temperature gets very low. If you missed time at high temperatures, the hot and humid air can cause heavy respiratory infections. Mist only when the lights are OFF, before the lights get ON and after the lights get OFF.
Do not revert the hydration cycle!	In captivity, most keepers revert regretfully the hydration regime of chameleons providing hot and humid days and warm and dry nights instead of the natural conditions consisting of warm and dry days followed by cold and moist and foggy nights. Use the foggers at cold nights and mist only as a safety before the lights get ON and after the lights get OFF. To be super safe, install a small dripper at daytime.
Do not shout on them!	They cannot hear you anyway...
Do not panic!	Take a breath and post or send me a message. I promise, I will shout on you, but I will do it with love and for the best of you, your chameleon and the planet Earth.



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