



# FIVE BASIC QUESTIONS BEFORE OBTAINING A CHAMELEON



## STUDY

1

### Am I willing to study all the necessary information?

The basic mistake of beginners is that they spontaneously acquire an animal, then quickly buy equipment and only then they start to search for information: only when the first problems appear. Studying basic information about chameleon husbandry takes only few hours. However, always check who is their author. The Internet space is flooded with a lot of erroneous and conflicting information. Beware to follow the advice from equipment dealers. Their goal is often to "sell as much and as expensive as possible", not to give the right advice.



## INSECT

2

### Can I feed live insects?

The chameleon feeds mainly on insects and small invertebrates. Therefore, you cannot avoid handling live insects (crickets, small locusts, fly larvae, etc.). In the case of a chameleon, live feeder insects can not be replaced by any alternative source of nutrition (neither granules nor plant matter). The chameleon also never eats a whole box of bought insects, which you buy, e.g. at pet store, at once. That's why you have no choice but to keep the feeder insects at home.



## INVESTMENT

3

### Can I invest in the equipment?

Keeping a chameleon is not a cheap affair. In the case of some species of chameleons, the price of the equipment far exceeds the price of the animal itself. While, for example, you can buy a Yemeni chameleon for "few tens of dollars", the equipment must be expected to have an initial investment of about \$500-\$800 (terrarium, lighting, UVB source, heat source, fogger, plants). The UVB source must be changed at least once a year. It does not pay to save in this case.



## TEMPERATURE

4

### Can I provide the necessary night temperature drop?

In captivity, the most commonly bred Yemen chameleons require for healthy life a drop in night temperatures to at least 20°C (68°F), with a range of 15 to 18°C (60-64°F) being ideal; many species, especially mountain, Mediterranean or from South Africa, require even significantly lower temperatures. High night temperatures shorten the life of chameleons. Ensuring a nighttime drop in temperature is problematic, especially in the summer months in large cities and in the South of EU and US, when simply opening a window is not enough. The solution in the form of air conditioning will again make chameleon keeping very expensive.




## RESPECT

5

### Do I respect that a chameleon is not a "pet"?

In general, physical contact is very stressful for a chameleon. Violent habituation to contact with humans can lead to the death of the animal. The chameleon also does not tolerate contact with other animals at all. Yet chameleons, like humans, have a "personality". Some get used to the presence of a person quickly, others need a lot of patience and others never get used to it. It is always necessary to strictly respect the individual and be prepared for the fact that the chameleon will never become a real pet.



**If you answered YES five times, you can start planning obtaining a chameleon.**

Reliable information guaranteed by scientific evidence and personal long-term practice can be found on the web: [CHAMELEONS.INFO](http://CHAMELEONS.INFO) or in a Facebook groups: [LIFE WITH CHAMELEONS](https://www.facebook.com/LIFEWITHCHAMELEONS) [CHAMELEON CARE 101](https://www.facebook.com/CHAMELEONCARE101) and their sister groups.



**If you answered NO at least once, then please abscond from obtaining a chameleon.**

If it is not possible to provide the animal the right conditions and respect its natural requirements, then it makes no sense to start keeping. It would neither bring joy to you nor to the chameleon.

[WWW.CHAMELEONS.INFO](http://WWW.CHAMELEONS.INFO)  
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