



WHY CHAMELEONS ARE NOT PETS

And why to not make them more social

Quite often, chameleons are subject of complaints from the side of their keepers, said to be shy, aggressive and not behave as pets. Regardless how frustrating it is for some people, this is true and there is almost nothing what can be changed. Just accept it.

CHAMELEONS ARE NOT PETS

CHAMELEONS ARE ANIMALS TO OBSERVE ONLY AND LEARN FROM

The unleashing of this secret is related to three basic areas:

KNOWLEDGE

We need to know a lot about chameleons to understand them.
We need to know e.g. that the chameleons are social animals but exhibit their social behavioral patterns over distance.



MYTHS

We need to ignore myths and nonsense parroted about chameleons.
e.g.: "Chameleons scratch on the door to give us signal, they want us to take them out on our hand."
Chameleons do not give us signals this way at all. When they want to go out of the cage, mostly it is because its wrong parameters and discomfort.

ANTHROPOMORPHISM

We need to see and understand and not see what we want to believe is truth and what we wrongly interpret from our, human perspective.
e.g.: The fact, a cuddled chameleon falls asleep, is not a sign of trust and comfort but on contrary a sign of extreme stress, out of which it can die!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHAMELEONS

- ◆ They are reptiles.
- ◆ They are beasts, rather simple "machines" for killing and survival.
- ◆ Their brain is primitive and does not contain the later in evolution developed centers, responsible for social interactions, emotions etc.
- ◆ Their behavior is driven mainly by inborn instincts.
- ◆ They can learn, but limitedly, and simple things only.
- ◆ Chameleon males mate only to produce offspring.
- ◆ Chameleons do not have any kind of parental care, no „loving parents“.
- ◆ Chameleons might even eat their own young.
- ◆ Chameleon females lay eggs or give birth to live young; but never:
 - care for them,
 - protect them,
 - touch them,
 - feed them.



HOW TO HANDLE A CAPTIVE CHAMELEON

- ◆ Give it time to familiarize with the new environment and to accept you as an integral part of it.
- ◆ Let it accept you as an subject/object, not dangerous for them.
- ◆ Don't touch it without serious reason.
- ◆ If you need to take a chameleon out of the terrarium, give it a branch. Later, you can allow it to crawl on your hand.
- ◆ Never grasp a chameleon with your hand.
- ◆ If you need to handle it, handle it quickly, respectfully and gently.
- ◆ Never cuddle, neither pamper any chameleon.
- ◆ Remember: „Love passes through the stomach“. Chameleon can quickly get used to the one, who feeds it.
- ◆ Respect, that every chameleon has its own temperament. One becomes acclimated quickly, another needs more than a year...
- ◆ If a chameleon intimidates you, keep still. Don't panic. Chameleon must learn, it makes no sense.
- ◆ Be patient...

PHYSICAL CONTACT STRESSES CHAMELEONS EXTREMELY

- ◆ Chameleons experience physical contact of any object or subject in the wild only:
 - while mating,
 - while fighting with congeners,
 - while being predated.
- ◆ Obviously, physical contact stresses chameleons a very intense way, they can even die of such stress, especially the young.

Maybe – one day – the chameleon will crawl on your hand deliberately.
And if not?
Don't be sad.
He is a CHAMELEON.
Not a pet.

**CHAMELEONS ARE NOT PETS.
THEY ARE FANTASTIC
LIVING BEINGS.
OBSERVE THEM ONLY.
LEARN FROM THEM.
MAKE OUR PLANET A BETTER
PLACE TO LIVE.**

