

**Yemen Chameleons (*Chamaeleo c. calyptratus*)**

**Also applies to - Mellors Chameleons (*Chamaeleo melleri*)  
Panther Chameleon (*Furcifer pardalis*)**

**Origins:** Yemen chameleons are a tropical lizard living in forests on high plateaus in Northern Yemen, and also in valleys in Southern Yemen in a desert habitat with extremes of temperature. Yemen chameleons are a good starter chameleon because of their tolerance of varying temperatures and humidity.

**Adult Size and Life Span:** Adult males can grow up to 60cm (2'), females up to 37cm (14") long, and can live up to 4 years. Male chameleons will not tolerate other males in their territory, so it's best to keep one male with two or more females, or a group of females.

**Diet and Feeding:** In captivity chameleons will readily eat brown and black crickets, locusts and mealworms. Flowers and leaves are also eaten in the wild. If you can guarantee the area has not been treated with insecticides any grassland can be swept with a net for native insects such as grasshoppers, moths and hairless caterpillars. Crickets can be fed daily, but mealworms only once per week. All foods must be dusted with a calcium and vitamin D3 supplement such as Nutrobal to ensure healthy development of bones. Fresh clean water should be supplied daily.

**Vivarium Set Up:** It is recommended you provide a vivarium no smaller than 24"x23"x36" to house your chameleon/s, but they will appreciate the maximum size you can give them.

A basic layout is shown in the diagram

Within this set up there must be:-

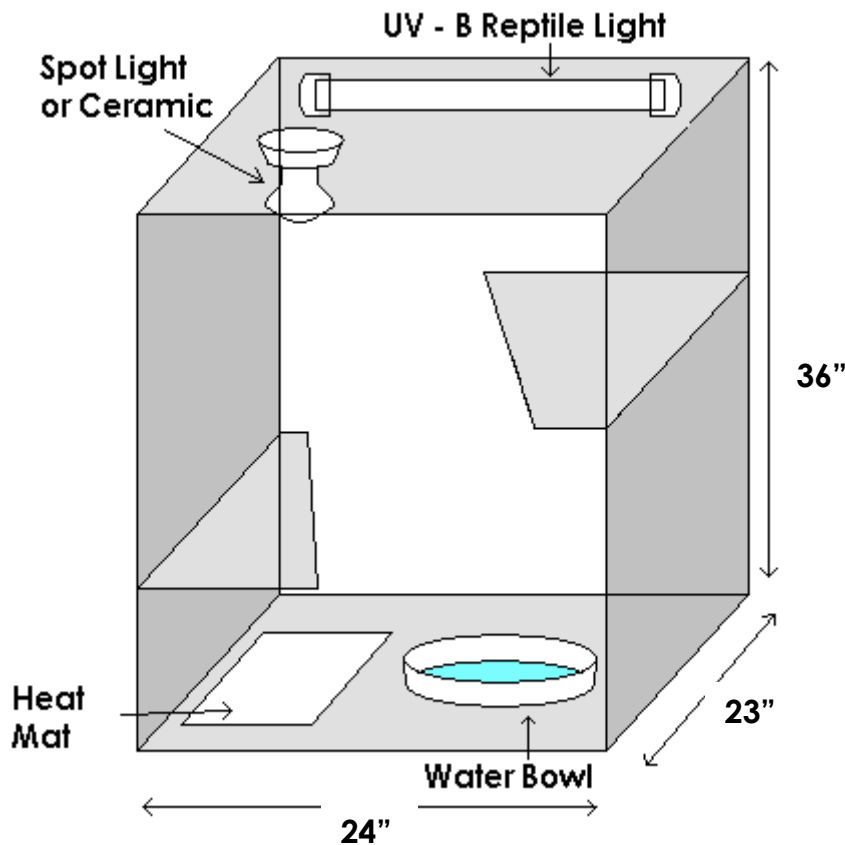
**Heating:** Daytime temperatures must reach 85 - 90°F (29 - 33 °C) in the hot spots, with cool spots of to 80 - 85°F (26 - 29°C). This is achieved via spot bulbs, heat mats or infra-red ceramic bulbs at the hot-end of the vivarium. Temperatures of 75°F

(24°C) should be maintained at night using one of these methods, and a thermostat may be required for control. The water bowl must be placed in the cooler end of the vivarium.

## Swallow Aquatics Caresheet

Lighting: A UV-B bulb is essential to ensure that vitamin D<sub>3</sub> is correctly synthesised and the animal will maintain a strong skeleton. Use a Reptiglo 5.0 bulb, across the back of the vivarium, for 10 -12 hours per day as a simulation of natural daylength.

Substrate and Decoration: Chameleons require a humid environment, as they prefer to drink droplets of water off of plants, rather than from a water dish. The vivariums can be misted twice a daily to achieve this. Orchid bark can be used for the floor covering of the vivariums. Use plenty of branches for climbing of varying thickness to give the chameleon a comfortable perch. Wood cork bark and rocks give extra interest, also various house plants such as weeping fig give a natural look.



**Further Information and Advice:** It is recommended that you read and gain as much information as possible before purchasing your chameleon. Books and reliable websites are good sources, or alternatively ask a member of staff. Phone advice is available 9am-6pm, 7 days a week on 01953 718184.