

**Monkfield
Reptile**
Everything Reptile

CARE SHEET

Panther Chameleon



OVERVIEW



- Ease of Care: Intermediate/Advanced
- Size: Males **12-18 inches** (Females can be half the size)
- Life Span: Up to **8 years** in Captivity
- Diet: **Insectivore**
- Humidity: **60-70%** during the day – up to **100%** overnight
- Temperament: Can be defensive
- Background Temp: **20-22°C (68-71.6°F)**
- HOT Spot: **27-30°C (80-86°F)**

TOP TIPS

- ✓ A humidifier will aid hydration when used at night - when all heat and light is turned off and your Panther Chameleon is asleep.
- ✓ Do not directly spray your Panther Chameleon when misting the enclosure. Even when shedding.
- ✓ Being arboreal (tree dwelling) they need the ability to climb and traverse within the setup.
- ✓ Make sure they are not able to get close to the heat and UVB source. Have plants and foliage at a safe distance, and protective cages used around the heat bulb and UV.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED



- Housing: Terrarium or Vivarium
- Heating: Basking Spot/Flood (12 hours on/off cycle)
- Lighting: UV Tube (12 hours on/off cycle)
- Substrate: Arcadia EarthMix or Habistat Jungle Bio
- Water: Dripper / Humidifier / Hand sprayer

HOUSING



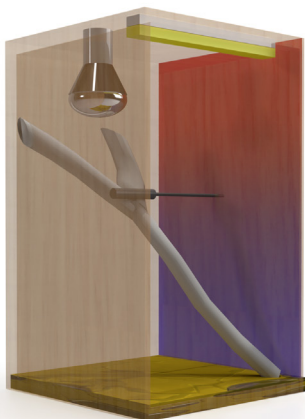
The following are perfect options of forever homes for your Panther Chameleon (*Furcifer pardalis*).

- **Monkfield Vivarium**, 24x18x36" (DVF2436)
- **HabiStat Terrarium**, 60x45x90" (HGT6090)
- **Zoo Med ReptiBreeze** (mesh), 60x60x120cm (DZRB48)

ENVIRONMENT



Arboreal Vivarium Setup



Heating

As Panther Chameleons are ectothermic (cold-blooded), all their heating requirements come from an external source.

Heating - A Vivarium

A bright incandescent light/heat bulb is ideal to replicate the sun within your Vivarium – all controlled by a dimming thermostat.

Mount the bulb, using a ceramic bulb holder, to the roof of the Vivarium. Use a heater-guard/cage over the bulb to provide protection and prevent injury to the Panther Chameleon.

To safely regulate the temperatures the thermostat probe should be placed as close to the main basking area as possible, so the Panther Chameleon can't lie on or touch it (as this would affect the readings)

Temperature and Monitoring

As a guide, a cool-end (bottom) temperature of **20-22°C (68-71.6°F)** gives the Panther Chameleon a safe cool area to retreat if needed.

The daytime Basking-zone/Hot-spot (top) should be around **27-30°C (80-86°F)**

Night-time temperatures should be **20-22°C (68-71.6°F)** throughout, with all light and heat being turned off.

Make sure temperatures are checked regularly to ensure there are no extreme fluctuations.

Using a digital probe thermometer in the basking and cool end will help monitor these temperatures. Ensure the Panther Chameleon is not able to lie on the probe (as this would affect the readings).

To achieve humidity levels of **60-70%** throughout spray regularly throughout the day as well as including real plants, branches, and a soil-based substrate.

The 100%-night humidity can be achieved via the use of a humidifier running after the lights have been off for an hour. Using a hygrometer will aid your ability to monitor the enclosure humidity.

Lighting

UV Lighting is required for the wellbeing of the Panther Chameleon.

If a Terrarium or Cage/Mesh setup is used a stronger UV (12% T5) is recommended as the mesh filters out a percentage of the UV reaching. The reflected UV bulb can lie on the mesh.

For a Vivarium, mounting the UV (6% T5) overhead is the best option. The UV tube should be at a safe distance to the closest point of the Chameleon.

Using an **Arcadia Lamp Guard Pro** will also protect the UV from inquisitive Panther Chameleons.

Substrates and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how to decorate the surface of your Terrarium/Mesh or Vivarium set up. The following is just a guide:

Habistat Jungle Bio or **Arcadia EarthMix** will help with humidity levels and works well with real plants.

Given that Panther Chameleons are an arboreal species (living in trees) the use of branches, vines, and plants are a must for decoration. A variety of branches throughout the enclosure criss-crossing from top to bottom provides a horizontal and vertical traversal providing a range of enrichment and heat/uv exposure options to the Panther Chameleon.

DIET & WATER

Being insectivores, a varied insect diet is ideal.

Young/juvenile Panthers eat daily and should be fed suitable sized insect feeders for around 5 minutes.

Adults will eat twice or three times a week and should be fed with just a few suitably sized insects each time.

For hydration, regular spraying of the enclosure once or twice daily will allow Panthers to take in water from the surrounding foliage.

We also recommend running a dripper at a steady pace for a few hours daily to provide hydration.

Recent research has discovered that Chameleons in fact hydrate by breathing in the humid and foggy air conditions while sleeping overnight in their natural environment.

This can be replicated in captivity overnight using the Habistat Humidifier to reach the recommended 100% humidity peak at some point during the night.

Using a hygrometer will help to keep the humidity in check.

SUPPLEMENTATION

Panther Chameleons do require additional supplementation within their diet to aid overall health.

We recommend using a Calcium, magnesium, and multivitamin mix regime as needed.

HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Panther Chameleon healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change water in dripper.• Empty any collected water• Daily Spraying	Spot clean	Check branches and plants for breakage and stability
Weekly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disinfect water dripper	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build-up	Wipe down glass / mesh / walls with a reptile-safe disinfectant
Monthly		Full or partial substrate change	Wipe down the enclosure, and décor with a reptile-safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling or feeding your Panther Chameleon, their food, enclosure and any other equipment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



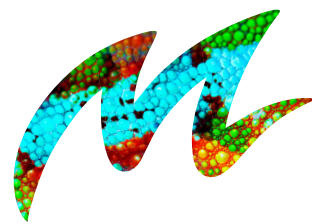
- Panther Chameleons will shed their skin and this is based on age.
- Younger Panthers under 6 months will shed almost weekly. This will become less frequent as they age with adults shedding only a few times a year.
- During this process, they can be more temperamental – often going off food or becoming more defensive.
- Chameleons as a species are not that keen on being handled and often don't like leaving the safety of their setup. This is NOT always the case and does vary from species to species, and of course, Chameleon to Chameleon.
- Female Panther Chameleons will lay eggs (even if no male contact has occurred). This process can start as early as 10 months old, but it's generally not until 1 year plus and can even be as late 3 or 4 years old. A lay-bin must be provided, filled with a soil-based substrate like Habistat Jungle Bio or Arcadia EarthMix. This needs to be several inches deep and at least twice the length of the chameleon. Keep this soil damp so they can dig the burrow/hole needed in order to lay. Once finished, they will cover the eggs over and go back to basking. To aid recovery, offer a couple of calcium supplement dusted soft-bodied feeders and extra hydration options for the next few days.

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HabiStat

