

# VEILED CHAMELEON



## *Chameleo calyptratus*

Veiled chameleons are the most commonly kept chameleons. Veiled chameleons are a large beautiful species that have many interesting behaviours. Chameleons in general are considered higher maintenance animals, however of all chameleons the veiled chameleon is one of the easiest to keep

Adult Size 10-18"

Life Span Males generally live 6-8 years, While females tend to live between 4 and 6 years.

Habitat

- It is very important to keep chameleons in a screen type cage as they require a high air exchange. The cage should be approximately twice as tall as it is wide.
- Adults should be kept in a cage no smaller than 18"X18"X36"
- Veiled Chameleons are extremely territorial and should be housed separately.
- Provide plenty of branches of varying thickness for climbing and lots of plants so that the chameleon feels secure in its environment.
- Many keepers choose to have a Hibiscus tree in their chameleon's cage as this provides both the branches and foliage that the chameleon requires.

Temperature

- 74-82F Ambient temperature
- Basking spot 90F.
- The height requirements of the cage make it very easy to maintain a proper thermal gradient from top to bottom of the cage.

Lighting

- UVB lighting is of the utmost importance for the well being of any chameleon species. Veiled chameleons should have a 10% UVB bulb that is changed at least once a year.

Substrate

- Chameleons should not be kept on any kind of loose substrate as they often "catch" the substrate while going for prey.

Nutrition

- Although chameleons are omnivorous, most of their diet consists of insects such as crickets, mealworms, silkworms etc....
- Veiled Chameleons will also on occasion eat flowers such as Hibiscus and rose petals