

## shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately sized habitat
- book about cool climate chameleons
- substrate
- moss
- water and mealworm dishes
- climbing décor
- plants
- heat light
- heat fixture
- UVB lighting
- vitamin supplement
- calcium supplement
- cricket keeper
- cricket food
- thermometer
- humidity gauge

## sources

Ask an associate about Petco's selection of books on Cool Climate Chameleons and the variety of Petco Brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All Petco Brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all Chameleons are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Salmonella, always wash your hands before and after handling your Chameleon and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a Chameleon and should consider not having a Chameleon as a pet. Go to the Centers for Disease Control at [cdc.gov/healthypets/](http://cdc.gov/healthypets/) for more information about Chameleons and disease. Go to [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet) to download other helpful Care Sheets.

This care sheet can cover the needs of other species. See [petco.com](http://petco.com) for more information.

# Cool Climate Chameleon

*includes fischer's, jackson's and rudis chameleons*



## Care Sheet

**Cool Climate Chameleons were once only found in Africa at elevations higher than 5,000 feet. Like all Chameleons, they change color and use their long, sticky tongue to catch their food.**

### Cool Climate Chameleon facts:

average adult size: 6 to 15 inches long,  
depending on species

average life span: 5+ years  
with proper care

diet: insectivore

*Will reach adult size in 9-12 months, depending on species and under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your reptile grows.*

**Note:** The information in this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

# Care Sheet

## Cool Climate Chameleon

includes fischer's, jackson's and rudis chameleons



Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.

### diet

A well-balanced Cool Climate Chameleon diet consists of:

- A variety of live insects, including gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets, mealworms and waxworms.

### feeding

Things to remember when feeding your Cool Climate Chameleon:

- Rely on moisture on plant for water; mist plants 4-5 times a day and/or use a drip emitter.
- Feed juveniles daily, adults every other day.
- Sprinkle food with calcium supplement daily and a multi-vitamin supplement once or twice a week.

### housing

- Size - appropriate size and shape habitat to accommodate normal

activity; taller than wide, with screened sides. Recommend aluminum or mesh, avoid fiberglass; use a basin under the bottom of the habitat to catch water.

- Habitat - a dense area of non-toxic plants for hiding and a more open, exposed area of branches for basking.
- Substrate - no specific substrate required, these are tree-dwellers and reside on branches and in plants exclusively; use sphagnum moss and mulch-type substrates.
- Temperature - temperature gradient (80°F for the warm end and 65°F for the cool end); recommend radiant heat. Use an incandescent light or ceramic heater as primary heat source.
- Lighting - UVB rays with full spectrum lighting for 10-12 hours a day is required. An incandescent day bulb

is needed for basking area if not using a ceramic heater.

- House adult Chameleons separately and do **not** house different reptile species together.

### normal behavior

- Most Chameleons can become highly stressed when handled; use extra care. Regular handling is not recommended.
- All Chameleons change color, depending on temperature and mood. Chameleons have eyes that can see in two directions at once.

### habitat maintenance

Thoroughly clean the habitat at least once a week: place Chameleon in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all traces of

bleach smell; dry the tank and furnishings completely and add clean substrate.

### grooming & hygiene

Chameleons regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is at appropriate level to allow proper shedding or provide a shed box, which is essentially a hide box with sphagnum moss, that will aid in the shedding process.

### signs of a healthy animal

- Active, alert, and interested in humans
- Clear eyes
- Body and tail are rounded, filled out
- Healthy skin
- Clear nose and vent
- Eats regularly

### red flags

- weight loss or decreased appetite
- mucus in mouth or nose
- swelling
- lethargy
- bumps, sores, or abrasions on skin
- labored breathing
- paralysis of limbs or tail
- abnormal feces

*If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.*

### common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Gastro-intestinal disease	Runny stools, caked or smeared stool around the vent area, and loss of appetite caused by bacterial or parasitic infection.	Consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
Metabolic bone/vitamin deficiency	Inability to absorb calcium due to insufficient UVB light. If untreated, can lead to a disorder characterized by deformities and softened bones. Swollen limbs and lethargy.	Consult your exotic animal veterinarian and provide ample UVB lighting.
Respiratory disease	Labored breathing and mucus in the mouth or nose. Can be caused by a habitat that is too cold or damp.	Consult your exotic animal veterinarian and ensure habitat is appropriately warm.