

Cuban False Chameleon (Western Bearded Anole)

These lizards are adorable shy lizards from Cuba that prefer to live alone. If well cared for, they can live up to 10 years.

Habitat: Cuban false chameleons need a terrarium that is large enough to give them adequate opportunity to thermoregulate, explore, hunt, and exercise even though they are usually more sedentary than other Anole species. They are arboreal (tree dwelling), which means that they require a tall enclosure. The minimum recommended enclosure size for housing a single Cuban false chameleon is **18"L x 18"W x 36"H**. Larger should be provided whenever possible. It is best to use an enclosure that is front-opening and has lots of privacy. It also must be well-ventilated to allow air flow.

Lighting: Cuban false chameleons are *diurnal*, which means that they are most active during the day. This also means that they need exposure to bright light and UVB during the day. Light sources should be turned on for 12 hours a day. Using a timer is the best way to keep the lights on schedule.

Temperature: The high temp should be 90 degrees and the low temp should be around 75 degrees. The basking area should have a branch or vine directly under the heat lamp. The warmest temperatures in the enclosure will be at the top, and the coolest temperatures will be toward the bottom. You will need to place climbing material at all levels of the enclosure to allow for proper thermoregulation (how a reptile controls its body temp.)

Humidity: Cuban false chameleons do best in a high-humidity environment, with an average humidity level of 80%. To raise the humidity in your Cuban false chameleon's enclosure (and provide an extra source of drinking water), use a spray bottle and mist the enclosure 2 to 3 times a day.

Substrate: Aside from providing a cushion against falls and a comfortable walking surface, the right substrate can also help maintain healthy humidity levels in your terrarium. At least 4" of substrate will be needed.

Cage Decorations: Decorations play a vital role in your Cuban false chameleon's enclosure as environmental enrichment. These items provide climbing opportunities, hiding places, encourage exercise, stimulate your pet's natural instincts, and help promote overall wellbeing. And, of course, they make the enclosure look nicer!

Diet: Cuban false chameleons in the wild are primarily *molluscivorous*, which means that they are specially adapted to eat mostly snails and slugs. In captivity they have proven willing to consider alternative prey, but captive-bred snails should still be considered an important part of their diet. Juveniles should be fed daily, while adults can

be fed every other day. They should be fed a variety of bugs such as captive-bred snails, dubia roaches, black soldier fly larvae, hornworms, superworms, and more. Feeder insects should also be gutloaded (fed) and hydrated for at least 24 hours prior to feeding. Insects should be dusted with calcium powder once or twice a week.

Water: A shallow water dish should be provided at all times, though they will do most of their drinking from dripping water. A dripper should be placed on top of the cage and allowed to drip for several minutes at least once a day.

Please feel free to reach out to Creepy Critters Rescue at any time to ask questions that were not answered here.