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CHAMELEONS

Jackson's Chameleon

Trioceros jacksonii

Trioceros jacksonii is a medium-sized chameleon from the mountain forests of Kenya and Tanzania. The male bears three forward-pointing horns, and the female gives birth to live young instead of laying eggs. The species needs cool nights, high night-time humidity and careful care, so it is mostly for the experienced keeper.

Family: Chamaeleonidae Former name: *Chamaeleo jacksonii; Chamaeleon jacksonii* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-38 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**5-9 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Montane forest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**20-24 °C**
Basking spot	**27-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**10-15 °C**
Humidity	**40-100%**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**5-12 months**
Litter size	**8-30 young**
Gestation	**150-180 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult needs a terrarium of at least 60 × 60 × 120 cm (length × width × height). This is more than the absolute minimum of 45 × 45 × 90 cm, but a better size for an animal that will live there all its life.

TEMPERATURE

The species is a highland animal and tolerates heat badly. The daytime temperature in the terrarium should be 20-24 °C. At the basking spot under the lamp it should be 27-30 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should follow the species' daily rhythm: about 90-100 % at night and 40-50 % by day. A constant 60-80 % is not correct and can make the animal ill. All surfaces must be dry during the day.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal and needs a lot of light. A T5 HO tube of 6500 K or a powerful LED lamp across the whole width of the terrarium provides the light.

FEEDING

T. jacksonii is insectivorous. Prey must be no larger than the distance between the eyes. Vary the food: grasshoppers, crickets, cockroach nymphs, flies and small beetles.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is kept singly for life. Males are territorial and should never be able to see each other. Two animals are only brought together when a female is taken to a male for mating.

NATIVE RANGE

Kenya and Tanzania.