



# Trioceros cristatus

## Crested (or Crowned) Chameleon

### Chameleon Academy Care Summary

For detailed information visit <https://chameleonacademy.com/trioceros-cristatus>

*This care summary modeled off of the experiences of Jurgen Van Overbeke*



Jurgen Van Overbeke

Male



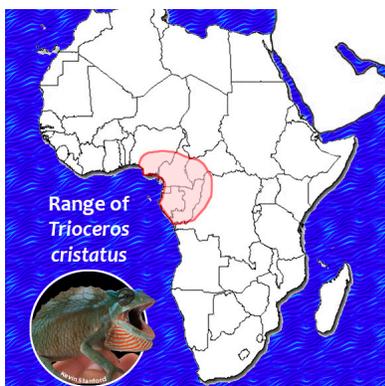
Jurgen Van Overbeke

Female



Michael Schüller

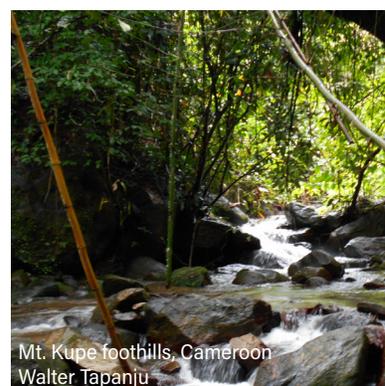
Juvenile



Range of Trioceros cristatus

### Natural History

Range	Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, E. Guinea, Bioko
Elevation	0 - 900 m
Terrain	Dense RainForest



Mt. Kupe foothills, Cameroon  
Walter Tapanju

### Cage Size

Minimum	2' x 2' x 4' or 36" x 18" x 36"
Ideal	4' x 2' x 4' or Greater

### Cage Set-up

One chameleon per cage

*T. cristatus* requires **DENSE**, heavily (live) planted cage as they avoid basking and keep hidden

**MUST** have multiple suitable perching branches behind plants where chameleon can hide entire body from your view and block UVB light from above



Jurgen Van Overbeke

For a detailed explanation of each section of this Care Summary, and even more information about Crested Chameleons, you can scan this QR code to be taken directly to the webpage.



SCAN ME



# Trioceros cristatus

## Crested (or Crowned) Chameleon

### Chameleon Academy Care Summary

For detailed information visit <https://chameleonacademy.com/trioceros-cristatus>

*This care summary modeled off of the experiences of Jurgen Van Overbeke*

#### Temperature

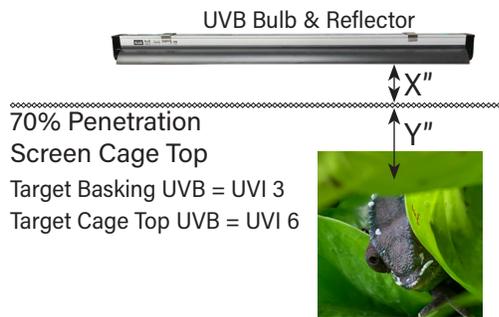
DayTime	72-74°F / 23°C
NightTime	68°F / 20°C
Basking	80°F / 26°C

#### Humidity

DayTime	60% - 80% RH <sup>1</sup>
NightTime	80% to 100% RH <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ensure that branches and surfaces dry daily  
<sup>2</sup>Provide air movement to avoid stagnant air

#### UVB

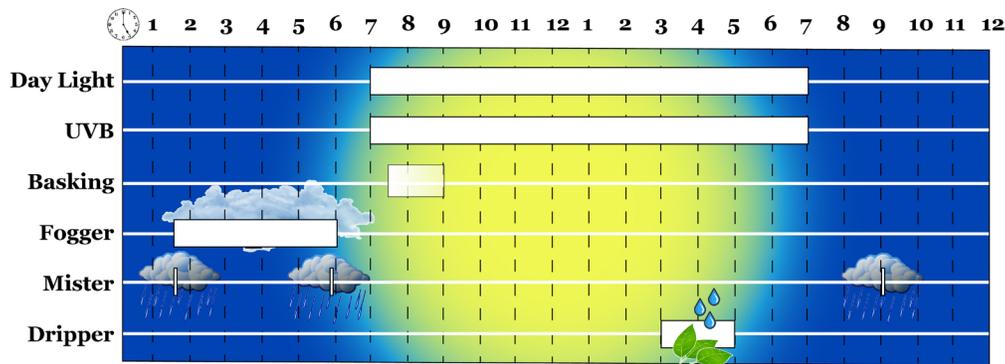


Technology	Bulb Strength	X	Y
T5 HO Linear	5.0 or 6%	3"	4"
T5 HO Linear	10.0 or 12%	6"	6"

- X" + Y" distance is from UVB bulb to back of chameleon through a 70% penetration screen top panel of the cage.
- X" + Y" distance is average compromise over bulb lifetime. Use Solarmeter 6.5 for exact measurements.
- Bulb must have a dedicated reflector.

*T. cristatus* is not a basking species and will avoid UVB. But provide the option in one area of the cage should they need it.

#### Hydration & Lighting

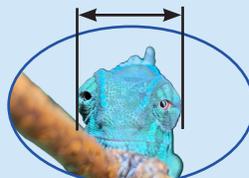


#### Feeding

Age	Frequency	Quantity (Feeder Units)
Growing or Gravid	Every day	No Limit
Adult	Every other day	3-4 Units

- One Feeder Unit = one "Safe Size" cricket
- Add feeder variety at equivalent volume
- Ex: if "safe size" cricket = 1/2" then 1 feeder unit = 1/2" cricket or 4\* 1/4" Crickets or 20 fruit flies

Safe cricket size



Supplementation (REQUIRES UVB)	
Every Feeding	Once per Month
Plain Calcium NO vitamin D3	Multi-Vitamin with up to 10k IU/lb Vit D3
Recommended: add Bee pollen 50/50 mix	100k IU/lb Vit A
	Examples:



# Trioceros cristatus

## Crested (or Crowned) Chameleon

### Chameleon Academy Breeding Summary

For detailed information visit <https://chameleonacademy.com/trioceros-cristatus>



Bill Strand

At rest Male



Jurgen Van Overbeke

Displaying Male



Jurgen Van Overbeke

Hatching Baby



Bill Strand

Mating



Bill Strand

3 month old Male



Michael Schüler

3 Month old Female

### Breeding Stats

Sexual Maturity	12-15 Months
Reproduction	Egg Laying
Clutch Size	8-30
Gestation	2-3 months
Determine sex	3 months

### Incubation

Time	Night Low	Day High
7-10 months	68°F/20°C	72°F/22°C

Observation: Incubating at warmer temperatures (23c) produced more females at 7 months incubation. Incubation at 19/20 c produced more males at 10+ months incubation.

### Laying Bin

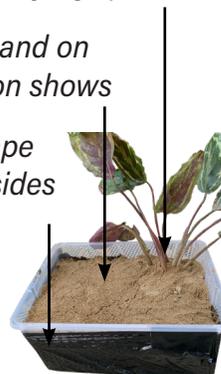
Substrate:  
50% organic soil  
50% playsand  
Soil Depth: 4" - 5"  
**Visual privacy during laying!**

### Consult website for breeding details

Optional: sprinkle sand on surface so disruption shows laying spot

Optional: sprinkle sand on surface so disruption shows

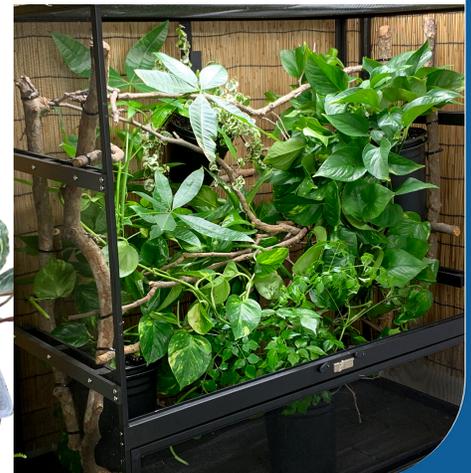
If using clear bin, tape black trash bag to sides for visual block  
Remove bag to see egg location



### Baby Raising

Individual raising is ideal  
Heavily planted  
Feed as much as babies will eat  
Beware of excessive heat/UVB

**Consult website for hatchling care**





# Chameleon Academy

## How To Use Care Sheets

### *Care sheets are just starting points*

A care sheet represents the ideal conditions, as we currently understand them, that have worked for the widest number of that chameleon species. This is an average. Your chameleon is an individual in your unique environmental conditions. Therefore, it should be no surprise if something needs to be adjusted as you observe your chameleon's behavior. Does he want the basking bulb on for longer? Does he need more hydration? Use this care sheet only to establish your initial parameters, but then **listen to what your chameleon is telling you!** These parameters are meant to get you started, not to lock you in to certain numbers. Your chameleon is the expert in what chameleons need! But make sure you fully understand the situation before changing the parameter. This is where constant study of chameleon language is imperative for successful long term chameleon keeping.

### *Further Research Opportunities*

Each Chameleon Academy care summary has a website link that will take you to a deeper discussion regarding each parameter. This is the first step to deeper understanding of the parameters. The rest of the website will then provide more context. The Chameleon Academy outreach includes the **Chameleon Academy Podcast** with over 250 episodes interviewing the top keepers, breeders, veterinarians, and scientists in the world. This podcast is available on any major podcast playing app, a dedicated free Chameleon Academy iTunes/Google Play app, and on the <https://ChameleonAcademy.com> website. You may also consult the **Chameleon Academy YouTube channel** for video tutorials.

### *Breeders, Influencers, and Groups*

These care summaries are meant for community use. You are welcome to use these care summaries, unaltered, on your websites, Facebook groups, or any other application which calls for chameleon care information. If you use Chameleon Academy care information then you may refer any questions you may get about the parameters listed here to me. If the question is not answered in my website details then I will answer it personally.

### *Conflicting Husbandry Advice*

There are diverse experiences in the community and each person can speak only to what they know. Therefore, you will find conflicting advice throughout the community. Your best approach to dealing with these differences is to do your research into the person you trust the most or is directly involved with helping you. The most obvious choice is to follow the advice of the breeder who is helping you with your first chameleon. Do not worry if other people (or even I) say differently. Follow your chosen person until you are comfortable enough with chameleon keeping that you can decide on a different approach.