



## CARE SHEET FOR:

- **Feeder Crickets**

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Congratulations on your new chameleon. Chameleons are what they eat so it is imperative to give them a great food source. This care sheet will help guide you through some basic care for your feeder crickets. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Banded Crickets

We highly recommend looking into a specific species of feeder crickets called Banded Crickets. They have a number of strengths over other cricket species.

- **Very Hardy** – They live well and have a lower death rate
- **Very Active** – This provides a lively feeding experience for you chameleon
- **Very Digestible** – even as adults, they have softer exoskeletons and short wings so they are more easily digested by your chameleons
- **Minimal Noise** – Only adult males will develop wings and be able to chirp but with shorter wings it makes less noise
- **Less Odor** – All crickets can develop a smell if their cage isn't properly cleaned but we have found these to produce less of an odor over other crickets
- **Non aggressive towards animals and humans** – This is the big one! These crickets are not aggressive towards your chameleons which means if a few remain in the cage overnight they will not attack and harm your chameleon like other crickets.



### Housing



We recommend keeping your crickets in a 10-20 gallon tank with a screen lid to prevent any from escaping. We have found that glass cages work well and they allow for easy cleaning. A large Tupperware container would also work, if you do not have a glass tank.

Don't use any substrate in the bottom of your tank, it must be easy to clean and remain dry.

Place clean egg crates at one end of the cage to provide hiding places for the crickets. Crickets will fight and kill each other if there is not enough room for everyone. So be sure to not over crowd the cage and to provide enough egg crates for hiding.

Place a dome light directly over the egg crates so the temperature within them is between 90 and 100F. Crickets that are too cold will not be very active and will refuse to eat so you want to be sure your cage is warm enough to stimulate proper growth and eating habits. We recommend leaving the light on 24/7 as crickets will eat nonstop during the day and night.

On the opposite side of the cage, place the food for your crickets. Be sure they have food at all times as they will turn on their own kind if food isn't available.

### Cleaning

Cleaning of the tank should happen every day to every other day depending on the amount of crickets your housing. Crickets produce a lot of waste and without regular cleanings it can cause bacteria to develop and disease which will not only kill your crickets but could also be directly fed to your chameleon.

We found the best way to quickly clean the tank is to remove all items from the tank, including the egg crates. Be sure to gently tap all the items against the side of the cage to make sure all the dirt as well as the crickets remain in the cage.

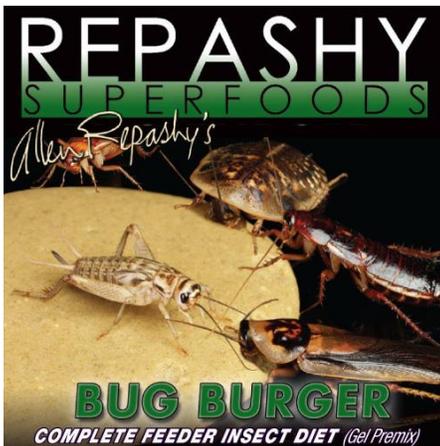
Then take a spackle tool with a metal edge and scrape everything to one side. For the most parts the crickets will run from the scraper so you can scoop out the waste, skin sheds, and any dead crickets without harming any living ones.



Once everything is clean, place all the egg crates back in the cage and give them some new food to munch on.

Once you have feed off the majority of your crickets and before you receive more, be sure to give the cage a complete scrub down clean with soap and water. This should be done at least once a month. Keeping your feeder cage clean is one of the most important things that must be done in order to keep your chameleon happy and healthy.

### Feeding / Gut Loading



All feeders including crickets must be gut loaded with nutritious food before being fed to your chameleon. Inadequate diet can lead to health problems in your chameleon.

We recommend Resphasy "Bug Burger" for gut loading of feeder insects. It is packed full with all the valuable nutrition your crickets need to survive and to then give to your chameleon.

It acts as both a food and a water source for your feeders so there is no need to supply them with a dry food and a water source anymore. This not only makes it easier to feed your crickets but it also helps to keep their cage cleaner.

It only takes a few minutes to prepare and can last in the refrigerator for weeks or in the freezer for months.

