

**Hydration:** – **Mantises need to drink every day.** Please use filtered / reverse osmosis water / bottled water (mineral free) to mist your mantis's enclosure 3-4x daily. You will see your mantis use it's raptors to drink from, or the sides of the enclosure (it's So cute to see them drink!). \*\*Do not spray the mantis directly. Mantises breathe from their abdomen. If you spray them, they may not be able to breathe. \*\* Use spray bottles with a **fine mist**, not large water drops. Young mantises can drown.

**Heat / Humidity:** – **Cobra mantises are an tropical species.** They need higher heat of 80-95 degrees, and humidity of 75-90% in a well-ventilated enclosure with good air flow. A heat mat (on enclosure side not below) works well. They do not need a day/night cycle as long as the room light is turned on/off during natural day and night. A thermometer & hygrometer is helpful to check humidity in your home. Misting your mantis's home 3-4x daily is all you need, unless humidity falls below recommended levels. If your enclosure is not bioactive, clean out the enclosure once or twice a week. Mantis poop can cause bacteria / mold in enclosure. Cobra mantises love leafy plants, so if your enclosure can be made bioactive with tropical soil mix and a few leafy plants (like pothos), you'll have a happy mantis.

**Enclosure:** – **Your mantis needs an enclosure that's a minimum of 3x it's body length, and 2x it's body width.** Some enclosure options: Glass enclosures (Exoterra, Reptizoo, Zilla) work well as long as they have a little mesh on the sides for cross ventilation. Mesh butterfly cubes are not recommended because of loss of humidity. Glass jars are not suitable. Tall square deli containers with cross ventilation, soil, leafy plants are a great home. Your mantis likes to hang from the top of the enclosure. Cobra mantises often crouch on top of leaves to camouflage. I recommend using hot glue to glue fine mesh (like organza) or shelf gripper (the rubber kind) so that your mantis has a good grip to molt safely. Metal mesh can harm a mantis's feet. You can hotglue mesh / gripper on metal.

- \*\* Hot glue is okay to use for your mantis enclosure. Try to pull out as many glue strands as you can. Let cool thoroughly before putting your mantis in.
- \*\* If you choose a very large enclosure for your mantis, it may not be able to catch it's prey successfully. – though it will enjoy exploring it's awesome home! You may want to feed it in a deli cup.

**Enclosure considerations:** – Bioactive enclosures work great for mantises, as long as isopods don't hurt your mantis if it falls. Springtails are just fine.

- Mantises LOVE to climb and explore, so putting branches and flowers is great. Do not put branches too low to the bottom. Cobra mantises resemble green leaves, so getting reptile-safe leaves and gluing them to branches in your mantis's home will be best for your mantis to feel comfortable.
- You want your mantis to molt from the highest place possible so that it has plenty of space. Do not overcrowd the habitat with branches because your mantis will need room to molt.

**Molting:** – **Mantises outgrow their exoskeleton as they eat and grow. They need to molt (wiggle out of their exoskeleton).** Your mantis will molt 7-9 times depending on it's gender. Male mantises molt 7x, females molt 8-9x to reach adulthood. When they're adults, they get their wings!!\*\*Mantises molt more frequently while they're younger. Their final molt to adult can take several months.

**Main signs of Mantis getting ready to molt** – It stops eating. It stays in one place. It's abdomen begins moving up and down a lot. It flicks away it's prey and seems bothered by the prey. Abdomen looks swollen even though the mantis has not eaten in a few days.. \*\*More signs info on Mantis Keepers Official.

- \*\* Do not disturb your mantis, move it, try to give it food when you see this behavior. Give your mantis a few days to molt. Do not feed it for 24-48 hours after it molts, though hydrate it as usual.

**Thank you! I hope you have a wonderful time learning and growing w/ your new pet!**



## Choeradodis rhomboidea - Cobra / Hooded Mantis!

**Awesome Fun Fact!!** I am a beautiful green leaf – bet you can't see me!! I'm just a leaf swaying in the breeze! I am friendly and a great eater! I am a large & gentle mantis and grow to 4-5"! I am native to Central America, and I like climbing on your arm to say Hi!



**Hi! I'm Luke.** I've been raising praying mantises since I was 8 years old. I'm the kid whose mantises were shown on **Snake Discovery (Youtube)!!** I got to show amazing mantises on **CBS show Kids Say The Darndest Things with Tiffany Haddish (Season 2, Episode 12 - Jitterbug).** - My mission is to show people how amazing mantises are, and how fun and clever their behaviors are! If we love insects, we'll do more to save their environment! I've raised and bred many mantis species, and learned a lot along the way. I hope you find my guidelines helpful. I encourage you to find awesome groups like **Mantis Keepers Official** on Facebook if you need guidance in raising mantises. I also plan to do a series of videos about mantis care. Please follow me on Youtube at **Luke's Bug and Animal Adventures** so you can hang with me as we raise mantises together! **#LukeBugAdventures**

**You are buying an Instar 2-Instar 4 Mantis.** Congratulations! Cobra Mantises are such fun to raise! They're amazing animals, with a fierce prey drive! Watching them swaying in the breeze and snagging an insect in 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a second an education in survival!! Choeradodis mantises can be a beginner species as long as you are experienced in keeping humidity and heat high! Choeradodis mantises are very beautiful and resemble veins of leaves in their wings. They are one of the friendliest, prettiest mantises.

**Diet – Facts for successful molt** -\*\* For your mantis to molt successfully, it needs a lot of internal moisture as well as external moisture. The more moisture content your mantis can eat from their prey, the greater their chances for a good molt. Giving them juicy prey items are important for this reason (and they plain love them haha)

**Diet - Instar 2 – 3-** Mantises eat 3-4x weekly. They eat mainly Hydei fruit flies – the jucier and larger, the better! Mantises are fierce eaters, and will chase down their prey. They can be fed in their enclosure or in a separate deli cup, if you're keeping count of how many fruit flies they've eaten. \*\*Put no more than 4 fruit flies in their enclosures – too many prey items can stress a mantis out. Too much prey can also hamper can mantis from molting safely, if the prey item is roaming around their enclosure while the mantis is trying to molt.

**Diet - Instar 4 – Instar 5** – Your mantis pet can now begin eating larger prey. Cobra mantises will eat prefer crawling prey like small roaches (red runners, dubia, grasshoppers, flies, live moths) are best. \*\* Make sure your feeder insects have NOT been fed carrots, because that harms a mantis. Mantises respond to movement in order to find / grab their prey. Cobra mantises will adjust to tong-feeding but in the beginning, it's best to put prey into their enclosure and stay out of sight, so they can hunt and eat at their own pace. \*\* **Do not ever feed your mantis Black Soldier Fly larvae or flies. They're problematic feeders, and many mantises have died after being fed that.**

**Diet - Instar 6-Adult** – Your mantis can easily eat larger sizes of insects mentioned above. Cobra mantises do well eating roaches, moths, flies, grasshoppers their whole life. If you feed fly larvae, they can sometimes carry bacteria, so please do your research and decide for yourself. I don't recommend mealworms / waxworms (except as a very rare treat) because they are on the fatty side for Cobra mantises.