A large adult (about 16 inches total length) veiled chameleon (*Chamaeleo calyptratus*) in a nearby specialty shop had a prolapsed hemipenis. He had attempted to mate three females in a matter of a couple of days. Over a period of several weeks, store employees attempted to correct the situation by lubricating the hemipenis with Vaseline Petroleum Jelly. Failing this, the organ and surrounding tissue were cleaned and covered in Preparation H, hoping that this would shrink the enlarged tissue. This also failed to produce the desired result. The results of these efforts were a stressed lizard and bloody fingers. The claws of a large chameleon are sharp and easily pierce human fingers while trying to restrain the animal.

The chameleon was not eating as well as normal and was loosing weight. After two more weeks the hemipenis appeared dark and hard to the touch. From the literature and conversation with another chameleon breeder, it appeared the only answer was amputation of the organ. Fearing that this would cause too much stress for a weakened chameleon, one last home remedy was tried.

The remedy was quite simple. Soak the chameleon in a warm Epsom Salt solution, treat the penis with a hygroscopic agent, and replace the penis within the cloaca.

The chameleon was first fully hydrated. Using an eye-dropper, water was dripped into the gaping mouth of the chameleon until he would accept no more. This was done so that the lizard would not attempt to drink the Epsom Salt solution. Enough warm solution (Magnesium Sulfate U.S.P.: 2 tablespoons per gallon of water at about 90 degrees F) was placed in a bath-tub so that the chameleon would be half-submerged when it stood in the tub. The lizard was placed in the tub and the room lights were dimmed. The room was warm and the animal was left alone so as not to stress it further. The animal moved little during the one hour soak. Removing the lizard and placing it on a bathroom towel, revealed a safe and less stressful method of handling large chameleons. The lizard held tight to the towel throughout the remaining procedures and did not try to climb or move about. After the lizard had a firm grip on the towel with its mouth it remained relatively still. In fact, the towel was only recovered after it and the chameleon were left alone inside a cage. The Epsom Salt was rinsed from the animal prior to drying it with a cloth towel. The penis was soft and several pieces of dried but now pliable material (blood and other body fluids) were removed with the aid of forceps from the distal end of the penis. Once cleaned, the penis and surrounding area was coated with Glycerine U.S.P. A cotton swab was used to press the penis back into the cloacal opening.

The lizard, three months later, is doing well and has gained his weight back. The penis has remained inverted and no complications have been noted. To date, the male has not been placed with a female to determine if the organ still functions properly.