

Tarantula Fast Facts!

- ◇ *Live for approx. 15-20 years*
- ◇ *Grow to approx. 5-12cm in leg span*
- ◇ *Requires a minimum 30x30x30cm enclosure*
- ◇ *Their diet consists of crickets, woodies, silkworms, and pinky mice*

Checklist!

- ◇ *Enclosure*
- ◇ *Substrate*
- ◇ *Ornaments*
- ◇ *Cave hides*
- ◇ *Heat mat*
- ◇ *Water sprayer*
- ◇ *Infrared heat light*
- ◇ *Thermostat*
- ◇ *Feeding tong*
- ◇ *Food*



Common Health Issues!

Dehydration: If the enclosure does not have the proper humidity levels your spider will lose condition and appear lethargic; If the humidity is not addressed in time this can lead to death.

Mites: If the enclosure is not kept clean, mite infestations may develop.

Loss of Appetite: Enclosures must be heated all year round. If the enclosure becomes too cold, particularly in winter, your spider may lose its appetite which can lead to loss of condition, and even death.

If you notice any of the following symptoms; loss of appetite, lethargy, please contact our recommended vet, The Unusual Pet Vets.



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Tarantula Care Sheet!



Bringing the jungle experience to you!

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Enclosure set up!

There are many different species of Australian tarantulas and they are generally found throughout the northern and central parts of Australia.

Colours can vary between species from dark brown in the thick forests to light grey on the open plains.

A glass enclosure of at least 30x30x30cm with a secure lid is required to house any tarantula. They love to burrow, and so provision of deep peat-soil substrate (min. 10cm), pipes, hollow logs and caves are important. The substrate should be kept dry at one end and damp at the other (but not wet), providing the spider with a moisture gradient. Tarantulas require high levels of humidity so the tank should be misted with water 2-3 times per week. A layer of sphagnum moss can also be used to hold moisture. Red lights will encourage spiders out of hiding during the daytime, essential for a display enclosure.



Maintenance!

Australian tarantulas come from the hot and humid regions of northern Australia. They are an ectotherms ("cold-blooded"), and therefore require an artificial heat source in their enclosure. A good quality heat mat, heat cord or thermostatically controlled infrared heat lamp (on larger enclosures only) can be used to provide the spider with an ideal temperature gradient within its enclosure. Temperatures should be regulated between 22°C and 28°C.

Tarantulas require high levels of humidity between 60-80%. This is achieved by misting the 'damp' end of the enclosure daily. It is important to ensure the substrate is moist, however excessive amounts of water can also cause problems for the spider.

Spiders are very clean animals, and are extremely efficient in using the food they consume. This means cleaning is minimal. Wiping the glass with warm water and drying with paper towel weekly, removal of prey carcasses, and a major clean with complete substrate change every six months is sufficient.

Note: Tongs should always be used when feeding, or removing items from the enclosure.

Warning!

Tarantulas are an observation pet only, and handling should be avoided. Australian Tarantulas can give a painful bite but are not usually considered dangerous. First aid for a bite is to apply a cold pack and to seek medical aid if pain persists.

Nutrition!

Australian tarantulas are ambush predators, they will wait in their burrow and attack their prey that walks by. This prey often includes insects, caterpillars or small rodents.

Tarantulas do not have teeth and rely on their digestive juices to break down their food. They love to eat crickets, woodies, grasshoppers and silkworms. In captivity, they can be encouraged to eat "Pinky" mice as well, as a treat.

In captivity you should offer your tarantula a variety of prey at different times. They should be offered live insects on a weekly basis. They may not eat every time they are fed, so any dead or uneaten insects and other waste should be removed. A wet sponge should be provided for your spider to drink from.

During your spiders moult you should not feed it, as the spider is incapable of eating during this time, and live insects could possibly harm your spider.

