

## Shopping list– The Basics

- Appropriately size habitat (10gal)
- Screen top
- Substrate
- Branches for climbing & hiding
- Natural rock or wood hiding spot
- Extra shells (larger sizes)
- Reptile cage thermometer
- Water dish & sea sponge
- Food dish
- Hermit crab food and treats
- Daytime light (if needed)
- Under-tank heater mat
- Water conditioner
- Salt or saltwater conditioner
- Spray bottle for misting

## Habitat

Pick a **habitat** that is appropriate for your hermit crab. A 10 gallon terrarium is idea for an adult crab.

**Humidity** level needs to kept between 70-80%. Misting daily as needed will help increase humidity and to keep their gills moist, to prevent dehydration and ease molting.

- Maintain temperature at 70-80°F.
- Use an under-tank heater mat on the warm side of the terrarium.
- Lighting for 10-12 hours a day is required.
- Provide hiding places from the light as needed

Provide two shallow water dishes. One with de-chlorinated water and one with salt water. The water should be no deeper than 1/2". Do not overfill because hermit crab may drown. Replaced sea sponge as needed to prevent bacteria from growing.

Use a **substrate**, such as sand/mulch mix. Coconut fiber or forest mulch are good substrate to mix with hermit crab sand.

Thoroughly clean your habitat once a week.

## Getting to know your Crab

- **Average adult size:**  
2-6 " long
- **Average life span:**  
10 + years with proper care
- **Diet:**  
Omnivore
- **Habitat:**  
Tropical

## Nutrition

Hermit crabs appreciate a variety in their diet. Feed high quality food and treats on a daily basis.

Supplement their diet with vegetables (spinach, carrots and romaine lettuce) and non-citrus fruits (mangos, banana peels, coconut and papaya) as treats. Nuts, seaweed, brine shrimp and fish flakes can be offered as treats too.

Make sure to crush all food pellets before feeding, and feed the hermit crab at night. Also, provide carotene and calcium supplements like cuttlebone.

## Health & Behavior

Hermit crabs are social and do well in groups but can be housed individually. Hermit crabs usually molt once or twice a year by burying themselves in the sand. Be careful not to disturb the process as the crab is very fragile. If molting occurs while housed with multiple crabs, separate the molting crab in the habitat with a divider.

### Signs of a healthy pet:

- Eats regularly
- Active and alert

### Warning signs to watch for:

- Lethargy
- Abandons shell & doesn't return
- Loss of appetite
- Loss of limb

## Experience Level: beginner

# Hermit Crab

## care guide



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