

shopping list

Step 1 - Enclosure

- Enclosure; 30cm x 30cm x 30cm minimum with lid
- Substrate
- Ornaments
- Cave hides

Step 2 - Maintenance

- Heat mat
- Water sprayer
- Infrared heat light
- Thermostat

Step 3 - Nutrition

- Feeding tongs
- Crickets
- Woodies
- Pinky mice

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, please contact your vet.

- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy
- Active during the day

Check out our educational YouTube videos by simply scanning the QR code on your smart phone or tablet.



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RE11



TARANTULA

Phlogius sp.



FAST FACTS

LIFESPAN: 15-20 years

SIZE: 5-12cm in leg span

ENCLOSURE: Glass enclosure; minimum 30x30x30cm with lid

DIET: Crickets, woodies, silkworms and pinky mice

Find out everything you need for your Tarantula in 3 simple steps



Enclosure



Maintenance



Nutrition

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YOUR CARE GUIDE FOR TARANTULAS

Step 1 - Enclosure



There are many different species of Australian native tarantula 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.



Step 2 - Maintenance



Australian tarantulas come from the hot and humid regions of northern Australia. They are 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.

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Scan the QR code on your smart phone or tablet to view our ‘How To Set Up A Tarantula Enclosure’ YouTube video and gain some tips and info!



Step 3 - 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.

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.

Recommended for ages 18+