

PISCES

PET EMPORIUM



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Desert Terrestrial Tarantula

Including: *Salmon Bird Eating Tarantula*, *Goliath Bird Eating Tarantula*, *Rose Hair Tarantula*, *Baboon Tarantula*, *Mexican Red Knee Tarantula*, etc.

Lasiadora Parahybana, *Theraphosi Blondi*, *Grammostola Rosea*, *Harpactirinae sp*, *Brachypelma Smithi*, etc.

Size: 4 to 12 inches, depending on the species.

Lifespan: Lifespan varies, depending on species.

Sexing: When full grown, males have small spurs on the knee of the front legs, females do not have these. Also, females get larger than males

Enclosure: Should be appropriate for the size and type of Tarantula. Arboreal Tarantulas need a vertical style terrarium. A 10-20 gallon tank is usually sufficient for a single tarantula, however larger species like the bird eaters need a larger tank. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra All-Glass Terrariums.***

Hiding/Climbing Spots: Hiding spots are a must with tarantulas. At least one is good but two is better in a larger tank.

Humidity: The enclosure should be well ventilated and misted well to keep the humidity high (up to 60%) and to aid the process of molting and prevent health problems. Use a hygrometer to maintain a constant humidity level.

Substrate: Loose, Forest substrate works well for all species. Some enjoy having some small rocks in the terrarium as well. ***Pisces recommends: Exo-Terra Plantation Soil.***

Heat: Maintain a temperature of as low as 24 °C at night to as high as 29 °C during the day (75 °F to 85 °F). Use a heat bulb on one portion of the tank so the animal can escape the warm area if they need to. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra bulbs and fixtures.***

UV Lighting: No UV lighting is required.

Feeding: Feed 4-5-week-old gut-loaded crickets to larger Tarantulas, and 2-3-week-old to smaller Tarantulas twice per week. If the Tarantula is not eating all of these crickets, reduce the number for the next feeding. Adults can be offered live pinkie mice once in awhile. Do not feed before, during, or after a molt.

Vitamins & Supplements: No vitamin or mineral supplement is required.

Handling: It is not recommended that you handle your tarantula unless you are entirely comfortable with it. Do not breathe on your tarantula while handling it; this will frighten it. Tarantulas can be easily injured if they fall so be careful not to drop your tarantula. Handleability varies with species, some are always handled easily, some require some practice, and some should not be handled.

Handleable Species:

- ❑ Rose Hair (*Grammostola Rosea*) - no practice required!
- ❑ Mexican Red Knee (*Brachypelma Smithi*) - no practice required!
- ❑ Goliath Bird Eater (*Theraphosi Blondi*)
- ❑ Salmon Bird Eater (*Lasiadora Parahybana*)

Other: Many of these species burrow and create underground homes.

Safe Handling of Reptiles*: As with all living creatures, reptiles can carry microorganisms (including Salmonella) which can make people ill. To reduce the chances of infection, always follow these safe handling steps:

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your pet, its food and anything it has touched.
- Keep your pet in a habitat designed for it; do not let your pet reptile roam around the home without proper supervision.
- Keep your pet, its food dishes and cage components out of the kitchen.
- Don't nuzzle or kiss your pet.
- Infants, children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with a compromised immune system have a greater risk of infection. Extra caution should be taken when they are in contact with any animal. Children under 5 should handle reptiles only under adult/parent supervision.

Recommended Books: recommends *Tarantulas* (Barron's Books).

Recommended Supplies:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Glass terrarium ❑ Screen top ❑ Misting bottle ❑ Water dish ❑ Hiding Cave | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Plantation Soil ❑ Plants ❑ Crickets ❑ Thermometer ❑ Hygrometer |
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Your New Pet: It is the responsibility of any pet owner to provide their pet with regular veterinary care to maintain their pet's health and to prevent illness.

Should you experience any problems with your new pet, contact Pisces Pet Emporium. We will make every effort to assist you but we may refer you to a qualified veterinarian if the problem is beyond our ability to treat.

A pet is a large responsibility and should not be purchased without due consideration. Pets should never be released into the wild.



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**Safe handling information courtesy of PIJAC Canada*