

# PISCES

## PET EMPORIUM



### Hermit Crab

*Coenobita sp.*

**Lifespan:** 10 years and longer with proper care.

**Size:** 2 to 6 inches, depending on species.

**Enclosure:** A 20 gallon long glass aquarium will comfortably house 3-4 crabs.

**Hiding/Climbing Spots:** Provide plenty of decorations for your hermit crab to climb over or hide under.

**Humidity:** The enclosure should be well ventilated and misted well to keep the humidity high (60% to 80%). High humidity helps to keep a Hermit Crab's gills moist, aids in molting and prevents dehydration. Use a hygrometer to maintain a constant humidity level.

**Substrate:** 2 to 3 inches of sand, forest bedding or coconut husk is recommended

**Heat:** Maintain a temperature of as low as 70 °F at night to as high as 80 °F during the day. Warm room temperature is ideal.

**Water:** Two shallow, non-metallic dishes should be provided. Hermit crabs are very sensitive to metal. One dish should be filled with de-chlorinated fresh water and the other with salt (brackish) water so that the hermit crab can choose either for bathing, drinking or shell water.

**UV Lighting:** Hermit crabs do not require UV lighting.

**Feeding:** Provide a high quality commercial hermit crab food. Treats are important to provide variety in a hermit crab's diet. Natural foods such as non-citrus fruits (i.e. mangos, coconuts, apple and papaya) are a great choice. Vegetables (i.e. romaine lettuce, spinach etc.) are also a good treat. Some other examples of treats include: fish food flakes, white bread, nuts, popcorn, seaweed and rice. Pellet food should be crushed before feeding. Hermit crabs should be fed at night because they generally come out to scavenge and feed after the sun goes down.

**Vitamins & Supplements:** Calcium is important (provide cuttlebone, oyster shell or egg shell). Carotene is also important (found in most red, yellow or orange vegetables).

**Handling:** Hermit crabs can be handled occasionally but since they are fragile, do not hold them high off the ground. Be especially careful of their larger pincher.

**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:** Pisces recommends *Hermit Crabs* (Barron's Books).

**Recommended Supplies:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Glass terrarium (long is best)</li> <li>❑ Screen / glass top</li> <li>❑ Artificial plants</li> <li>❑ Misting bottle</li> <li>❑ Sand, peat moss, forest bedding or coconut husk</li> <li>❑ Sea salt</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Water dishes (2)</li> <li>❑ Food dish</li> <li>❑ Hygrometer</li> <li>❑ Thermometer</li> <li>❑ Calcium supplement or cuttlebone</li> <li>❑ Terrarium substrate heater (optional)</li> </ul> |
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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*