

PISCES

PET EMPORIUM



Photo by Pisces Pet Emporium

Moon Crab

Gecarcinus quadratus

Lifespan: 8 to 10 years.

Size: Up to 6 inches.

Sexing: Males have horizontal lines on the bottom of their body, while females have vertical lines.

Enclosure: These crabs should have at least a 20-gallon long tank.

Hiding/Climbing Spots: Provide lots of hiding spots for your crab and deep substrate to burrow in and to assist in molting.

Humidity: The enclosure should be well ventilated and misted well to keep the humidity high (60% to 80%) and to aid the process of shedding and prevent health problems. Use a hygrometer to maintain a constant humidity level. Provide a water dish large enough for the crab to curl up in to help aid the shedding process.

Substrate: Loose Forest flooring is best to use for substrate. It is good for burrowing and holds in moisture. ***Pisces recommends: ExoTerra Plantation Soil.***

Heat: Maintain a temperature of as low as 21 °C at night to as high as 32 °C during the day (70 °F to 90 °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: Use of a full spectrum 5.0 bulb for 12 hours per day is recommended. Fluorescent bulbs lose effectiveness and need to be replaced every 6-8 months.

Feeding: Feed Moon crabs a diet of crab pellets, salad and feeder fish. You can also offer Wax Worms, Super Worms, Butter Worms, and Phoenix Worms as a treat. Feed Them as much as they will eat every second day.

Vitamins & Supplements: Dust food with a vitamin powder supplement every other feeding. ***Pisces recommends: Rep-Cal Herptivite Multi-Vitamin.***

Handling: Be aware of the crabs claws when handling and do not drop them from a large distance, but if care is taken, these crabs can become quite tame.

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 *Terrarium Animals From A to Z*(Barron's Books).

Recommended Supplies:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Glass terrarium (long is best) ❑ Screen top (if not included with terrarium) ❑ Cave ❑ Misting bottle ❑ Water dish ❑ Plantation Soil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Heat Bulb & Fixture ❑ Fluorescent Light & Fixture ❑ Rep-Cal Calcium Supplement ❑ Rep-Cal Herptivite Multi-Vitamin ❑ 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*