

shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately sized habitat
- book about tarantula
- substrate
- moss
- water dish
- hideaway place
- climbing décor
- plants
- under tank heater
- cricket keeper
- cricket food

sources

Ask an associate about Petco's selection of books on Tarantulas and the variety of Petco Brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All Petco Brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all invertebrates are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Salmonella, always wash your hands before and after handling your invertebrate and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for an invertebrate and should consider not having an invertebrate as a pet. Go to the Centers for Disease Control at cdc.gov/healthypets/ for more information about invertebrates and disease. Go to petco.com/caresheet to download other helpful Care Sheets.

This care sheet can cover the care needs of other species. See petco.com for more information.

Tarantula

*includes pink toed, red knee
and rose haired tarantulas*



Care Sheet

Tarantulas are members of the spider family. There are over 800 kinds in many colors. They have eight eyes, and are active at night. Females tend to be larger and live longer than males.

Tarantula facts:

- average adult size: 2 to 10 inches, depending on species
- average life span: up to 5+ years with proper care, depending on species
- diet: carnivore

Will reach adult size in 2-9 years, depending on species and under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your reptile grows.

Note: The information in this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

Care Sheet

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Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.

diet

A well-balanced Tarantula diet consists of:

- Appropriate size live insects, such as gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets, mealworms, superworms, roaches.
- Some species may eat frozen/thawed pinkie mice, thawed/warmed to room temperature.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your Tarantula:

- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times; may not drink from a bowl but will rely on moisture on plants.
- Feed juveniles several times a week; adults once a week.
- Be sure that food is smaller than the tarantula; pink-toes eat small crickets; remove any uneaten live food as it may cause injury to a resting Tarantula.

housing

- Size - appropriate size and shape habitat to accommodate normal behavior and exercise; at least three times the leg-span long and two times the leg-span wide. Height should be the length of the Tarantula for ground dwellers, about 10 inches for tree-dwelling Tarantulas.
- Habitat - provide a place to hide, such as a half log; tree-dwelling Tarantulas also need twigs and branches to build their webs. Maintain 50-90% humidity by misting as needed every day.
- Substrate - mulch-type such as coconut fiber bedding, reptile bark or dampened sphagnum moss; avoid gravel and artificial turf (too harsh for skin).
- Temperature - 70-82°F.
- Lighting - keep in a darker part of the room away from sunlight; avoid incandescent lights which can dry

out a Tarantula; use a black or infrared light to watch your Tarantula after dark. Water - always have a shallow dish of fresh, de-chlorinated water.

- House Tarantulas separately and do **not** house different invertebrate species together.

normal behavior

- Handling Tarantulas is not recommended; if feeling threatened, they may bite or even run and fall. Even a short fall can cause serious, even fatal injury.
- Their bite is equivalent to a bee sting but is still painful and some individuals may be especially sensitive; if bitten, seek immediate medical attention.
- As part of their natural defense, some may “flick” defense hairs which may also cause allergic reaction or irritation.

habitat maintenance

- No special cleaning required; spray-mist the habitat as needed to keep the habitat moist; Tarantulas need the correct humidity to stay healthy.
- Fill water bowl daily.

grooming & hygiene

When Tarantulas molt, they lie on their back with their feet up in the air; juveniles molt about four times a year and adults once a year. May stop eating up to two weeks before a molt; do not disturb during this time. Be sure to remove all live food from enclosure as even a cricket could harm them during this period.

signs of a healthy animal

- Eats regularly
- Healthy skin or shell (exoskeleton)
- Active and alert

red flags

- dull shell (exoskeleton)
- very slow movements
- bleeding from injury to leg or abdomen
- getting stuck in a molt

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.

common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Dehydration	Slow moving, shriveled appearance.	Consult your exotic animal veterinarian and spray-mist the habitat more frequently.
Falls, injuries	Bleeding	Immediately consult your exotic animal veterinarian.