

shopping list

- appropriately sized habitat
- book about tropical cockroaches
- substrate
- moss
- food and water dishes
- hideaway place
- climbing décor
- plants
- under tank heater

sources

Talk to a Petco store partner to an associate about the Petco library of books on roaches.

Talk to a store partner about our many private brand items available for the care and happiness of your pet.

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. For more information regarding invertebrates and disease, contact the Centers for Disease Control at cdc.gov/healthypets/ and http://www.petco.com/pet_care_info/companion_animal_care_sheets.

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

tropical roaches

Tropical Spotted and Giant Islander



care sheet

Tropical roaches originate from warmer, moist environments.

tropical cockroach facts:

They will reach adult size in 6 months, under ideal conditions

Average adult size: Up to 3 inches long

Average life span: 1 to 3 years with proper care

Diet: herbivore

Note: *The information on this care sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources below or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.*

diet

A well-balanced roach diet consists of:

- Romaine lettuce, red leaf lettuce, apples, carrots, and occasional overripe fruits.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your roach:

- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times.
- Feed daily

housing

- Appropriately sized habitat to accommodate normal behaviors and exercise, with secure lid
- Habitat - provide hiding areas using non toxic plants, branches, logs or cork bark; maintain high humidity by misting daily.
- Substrate - mulch-

type commercial material such as coconut fiber bedding, dampened sphagnum moss and reptile bark.

- Temperature - temperature between 75-95°F; use an under tank heater.
- Lighting - cockroaches are nocturnal and have no special lighting needs. Don't expose them to direct sunlight for long periods of time. To view cockroaches at night, use a black or infrared light.
- Water - use a commercial cricket waterer or a water bowl. Use chlorine-free water and place stones in the bowl to prevent roaches from drowning. Commercial water drink (gel) is a good alternative water source
- House adult cockroaches together but do **not** house different cockroach species together.

appearance & life cycle

Male cockroaches have large horns behind their heads while females have very small horns. Cockroaches are nocturnal (active at night). Handle cockroaches gently; while they don't bite, they do have sharp spines on their legs. Juveniles must molt several times before reaching adulthood; once grown they do not molt again.

habitat maintenance

Change water daily. Mist habitat several times daily to maintain high humidity. Replace substrate every two weeks.

grooming & hygiene

Cockroaches have a waxy coating; always wash your hands after touching your cockroaches, and avoid getting the coating into cuts and scratches.

signs of a healthy animal

- Eats regularly
- Body is rounded and full
- Active and alert
- Healthy exoskeleton

red flags

- Swollen limbs
- Lethargic
- Weight loss
- Abnormal feces
- Discharge in mouth or eyes
- Dull exoskeleton

common health issue

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
dehydration	slow moving, shriveled appearance	consult your exotic animal veterinarian and spray-mist the habitat more frequently

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