



## Tarantula

(pink-toed, red knee, red leg and rose-hair)

### Facts:

Average adult size: **2 - 10 inches (depending on species)**

Average life span: **Females: 30+ years with proper care**

**Males: 7 years with proper care**  
(depending on species)

Diet: **Carnivore**



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.

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

### Feeding & Nutrition:

#### Food

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

#### Water

- Fill water dish daily.

#### Feeding

- 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 daily, adults every other day. Since they are nocturnal, feeding should occur at night.
- 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:

#### Cage

- Appropriately sized and shaped 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.
- Provide a place to hide, such as a half log; tree-dwelling tarantulas also need twigs and branches to build their webs.
- Maintain 50 to 90% humidity by misting as needed every day.
- Temperature - 70 to 82°F.
- Keep in a darker part of the room away from sunlight; avoid incandescent lights which can dry out a tarantula; use a nocturnal or infrared light to watch your tarantula after dark.
- House tarantulas separately and do not house different invertebrate species together.

#### Substrate

- Mulch-type such as vermiculite, coconut fiber bedding, reptile bark or dampened sphagnum moss; avoid gravel and artificial turf (too harsh for skin).

**Note:** The information in this Care Guide is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

# Care Guide



## Habitat Maintenance

- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the habitat at least once a week: place scorpion in a secure habitat using gloves and forceps to gently move the scorpion; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all traces of bleach smell; dry the tank and furnishings completely and add clean substrate.

## Care:

### 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.

### Health

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

### 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” urticating hairs which may also cause allergic reaction or irritation in humans.

## Recommended Supplies:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Size Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing Decor                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate                | <input type="checkbox"/> Hide                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water dish               | <input type="checkbox"/> Plants                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer              | <input type="checkbox"/> Calcium & Vitamin Supplements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity gauge           | <input type="checkbox"/> Plants                        |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Crickets                      |

**Note:** The information in this Care Guide is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please contact your veterinarian as appropriate.