



Terrestrial Tarantula Care Sheet

Species Name:

Theraphosidae sp

Adult Size:

Species dependent

Lifespan:

5-20 years

Breeding Age:

3-7 years



Tarantulas, belonging to the Theraphosidae family, are renowned for their imposing appearance and venomous bite. These large, hairy arachnids inhabit various ecosystems worldwide, from deserts to rainforests. Despite their fearsome reputation, most species are docile unless provoked, relying on camouflage and their ability to flick hairs as defence mechanisms. Their diet typically consists of insects, although larger species may prey on small vertebrates. Tarantulas moult periodically to grow, shedding their exoskeletons. Some species exhibit fascinating behaviours such as burrowing or creating silk-lined retreats. While intimidating to some, tarantulas play crucial roles in maintaining ecological balance.

Housing:

Enclosure: As terrestrial creatures your Tarantula will enjoy a vivarium which is longer than it is tall, a 45x45x45cm glass terrarium is ideal.

Substrate: Using a substrate that retains moisture is important for most species of tarantula, ideally a mix of orchid bark and a loose substrate like coconut coir or moss. Keep a thick layer of substrate at the bottom of the terrarium to allow for burrowing behaviours.

Temperature:

Provide a temperature gradient to allow your tarantula to thermoregulate. The warm end of the enclosure should be 25-27°C with the cooler side of the terrarium being 22-24°C.

Use a heat source like a ceramic lamp or a heat mat for heating.

Night time temperatures can drop to 18-21°C.

Lighting:

Tarantulas do not require UVB lighting to survive, however they will benefit from a 10-12-hour day/night cycle.

Diet:

Feeding: Offer a varied diet of insects (locusts, crickets, and worms) for smaller tarantulas, larger species such as bird eaters can be given pinkie or fuzzie mice.

Juveniles can be fed up to 5 times a week, when they are fully grown your tarantula will only require food 1-2 times a week.



Humidity and Hydration:

A humidity of 30-60% should be maintained.

Provide a shallow dish for drinking water or a dish with bug gel to allow the scorpion to drink droplets from the surface. Mist the enclosure occasionally to maintain humidity levels and aid in shedding.

Enrichment and Handling:

Place hiding spots, rocks, and branches for climbing to create a stimulating environment.

Provide a secure hide for them to retreat and feel safe.

Health Considerations:

Regularly monitor for signs of illness, such as lethargy, changes in appetite, or difficulty shedding.

Quarantine new reptiles before introducing them to existing enclosures.

Remember that the care requirements for Tarantulas may vary slightly based on individual needs and species, so observe your animals behaviour and make adjustments accordingly. Always prioritize the well-being and health of your pet by providing a well-maintained and enriched environment.