



Tarantula



Origin: Varies

Size: 2-10 inches, depending on species

Life Span: Females – up to 30 years, Males – up to 7 years.

Heat and Lighting:

- Tank should be kept around 70-85°, in a consistently warm room.
- White light is not recommended, a low-wattage red bulb can be used to supplement heat and for visibility.

Tank setup:

- Spiderlings and juveniles can be kept in small enclosures, but plan to upgrade to at least a 10 gallon tank as they grow. Larger species such as a Salmon Pink Birdeater or Goliath Birdeater will need a 20+ gallon tank. Any tank should have a secure lid.
- Arboreal species will need a taller tank to allow height to climb.
- Provide a place to hide as well as twigs and branches to build their web.
- Mulch or coconut fiber substrate is recommended.

Diet: Carnivores

- A well-balanced diet consists of insects such as gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets, and dubia roaches.
- Food should be smaller than the tarantula
- Feed 1-2 times per week, depending on dietary habits

Water and Humidity:

- Water should be available at all times, and cleaned regularly.
- Maintain 50%+ humidity by misting regularly

Temperament & Handling: depends on species

- Never attempt to handle Spiderlings or juveniles
- Species such as Rose Hair, Red Knees, Pink Toes, and Honduran Curly Hairs have docile temperaments but handling frequently is not recommended.
- Their bite is equivalent to a bee sting (in terms of venom and pain). Those who are allergic to bees should seek immediate medical attention if bitten.
- Some species may flick “urticating” hairs from their abdomen to defend themselves.

Molting: When tarantulas molt, they lie on their back with their feet in the air. There should be no insects in their tank during this time, and they should not be disturbed. Make sure there is plenty of moisture during this time. Juveniles molt about 4 times per year, adults about once per year.