

Keepers Guide for Tarantulas



TYPES OF TARANTULA

Tarantulas have been kept as pets for many years and can make a great focal point in any room when they are set-up in a well planted natural looking enclosure. There are Tarantula species that are considered more terrestrial, such as the Pink-Toed, Mexican Red Knee, and Brazilian Black Tarantulas - and those considered more arboreal Tarantulas such as the Greenbottle Blue, Cobalt Blue, and King Baboon Tarantulas.

BUYING A TARANTULA

We recommend buying your Tarantula from a reputable source.

FIVE POINT ANIMAL HEALTH CHECK BEFORE PURCHASING

1. Make sure that the animal is alert and responsive.
2. The legs should support the body effortlessly.
3. The underside of the Tarantula should be clean and free from discolouration and signs of injury.
4. The Tarantula should be free from any stuck moults.
5. The Tarantula should be feeding without issues, on a varied diet.

Top Tips

- Provide a suitable background temperature to allow the Tarantula to function as normal
- You may not see your Tarantula drink but always provide a fresh water source for when it chooses to drink
- Ensure the enclosure is well ventilated
- Use 5-10cms of substrate to allow the Tarantula to burrow and to provide a humid place for resting



INFORMATION

For more information on Arachnids or other reptile species visit our reptile guide at www.habistat.com/reptile-guide

ENVIRONMENT

Temperature and Monitoring

Make sure the temperature and humidity levels are checked regularly with a reliable thermometer and hygrometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

Lighting

An LED Light can be used to provide a day and night cycle. Ensure there are plenty of dark hiding areas to hide away from the light if required.

Substrate and Decorations

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your Terrarium, but we recommend the following as a guide:

- Tarantulas can be housed on HabiStat Spider Bedding. This substrate will retain essential moisture, helping to maintain humidity levels. The Tarantula will also be able to display its natural burrowing behaviour should the species require.
- Wood for climbing and hiding under.
- Live or artificial plant decorations will provide darker areas for the Tarantula to hide away if it chooses.

Diet and Water

Tarantulas are insectivores and should be fed a varied insect-based diet:

Spiderling – 1 or 2 appropriately sized insects 4 or 5x a week.

Juvenile/Adult – 1 or 2 appropriately sized insects per week.

A source of fresh water must always be available via a small and shallow water bowl to allow the Tarantula to hydrate itself when needed.

Supplements

Use high quality supplements such as HabiStat Pure Calcium and HabiStat Repton a few times a month.

Additional Information

Tarantulas are notoriously good at escaping. Ensure that the enclosure is fully secured as Tarantula hide and seek is not the best game to be playing!

FAQ's

Are Tarantulas aggressive?

The majority of Tarantulas are normally docile but can still be jumpy and move quickly without warning.

Care must be taken during any handling to ensure that your Tarantula cannot fall onto a hard surface as this could result in a life-threatening injury.

How long will my Tarantula live for?

A female Tarantula may live 15 to 30 years in captivity if cared for correctly. Male Tarantulas, 4 to 8 years old. These ages will vary depending on species.

What does Terrestrial mean?

Terrestrial is the word used to describe an animal which lives on the ground.

What does Arboreal mean?

Arboreal is the word used to describe an animal that will climb to live off the ground.

I have had my Terrestrial Tarantula for a few months but have never seen it drink?

Tarantulas can go for long periods without a drink, but they do drink - so always ensure a fresh water source is available for the Tarantula to access when it requires.

Why is my Tarantula on its back with its legs curled up?

Every now and again a Tarantula will moult its old skin. To do this the Tarantula needs to roll on to its back and climb out of its old skin. This process can take anywhere from 15-minutes to a full 24-hours.

Once the Tarantula has finished moulting it will turn back on to its legs.

How often do I need to feed my Tarantula?

Depending on the age of the Tarantula, you should offer a suitably sized insect 5x a week for Spiderlings, with adults feeding on a suitably sized insect 1 or 2 times per week.

Is a Tarantula a spider?

Yes, Tarantulas are spiders; they belong to a group called arachnids which also comprises of Scorpions, Tarantulas, and even Mites and Ticks.

HEALTH & HYGIENE

	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
WATER	Change old water for fresh water	Disinfect water bowl / dish	
SUBSTRATE	Spot Clean	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build up and remove any dirty bedding	Full substrate change
ENCLOSURE	Check vents/lid on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely	Wipe down glass with a reptile safe disinfectant	Wipe down inside the enclosure and décor with a reptile safe disinfectant