

Arboreal Tarantula Care Sheet



Overview

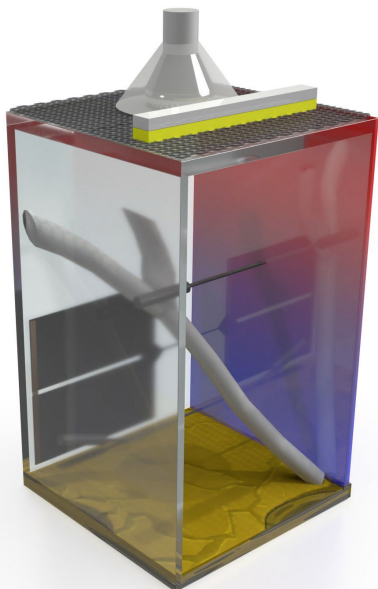
- Ease of Care: Beginner
- Size: 7.5-15cm (3-6")
- Life Span: Up to 12 years
- Diet: Insects
- Temperament: Friendly but Jumpy
- Background Temp: 22-27°C (72-80°F)
- HOT Spot: Not required

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.
- ✓ A piece of wet sponge or insect gel can be used in the tarantula's water dish to make it easier for the Tarantula to rehydrate.
- ✓ Light misting of the enclosure every other day will help to keep the humidity at 75-85% which is required for these Tarantulas.
- ✓ Use moist Sphagnum Moss in the enclosure or mix in with the substrate to help keep the humidity level up.
- ✓ Whilst these Tarantulas require a high humidity level the enclosure needs to be well ventilated to keep the air fresh.
- ✓ Use Cork Branches and Cork Bark to create vertical perching and hiding areas for these tree loving Tarantulas.

ENVIRONMENT

Arboreal Terrarium Setup



EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Housing: Glass Terrarium or Plastic Faunarium
- Heating: Heat Mat
- Lighting: LED Lighting (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: Spider Substrate or Bioactive.
- Water: Water Dish

HOUSING

- A relevant sized Glass Terrarium or Plastic Faunarium is the perfect housing solution for an Arboreal Tarantula throughout its whole life.
- Exo Terra Glass Terrarium, Mini Tall, L30 x D30 x H45cm (12 x 12 x 18") (DER1218)
- Exo Terra Glass Terrarium, Small Wide, L45 x D45 x H45cm (18 x 18 x 18") (DER18)
- Exo Terra Standard Faunarium, Large, L37 x D22 x H25cm (14.5 x 8.5 x 10") (DESFL)
- We recommend keeping spiderlings and small juvenile Tarantulas in smaller enclosures until they are well established.

Heating

Originating from a warm environment, Arboreal Tarantulas require a warm background temperature within their enclosure to help them to flourish.

A heat mat run on a thermostat is the ideal solution for providing heat. The heat mat should be located on the outside of the enclosure, either on the back or one of the sides.

The heat mat should be used in conjunction with a heat mat thermostat.

Heat mat thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the Tarantula. Insert the probe through the lid of the terrarium and tape directly to the inside of the enclosure adjacent to the heat mat. The probe cable

should be taped 2-5cm (1-2”) back from the actual probe sensor to allow for a correct temperature reading and to avoid it becoming dislodged.

Temperature and Monitoring

As a rough guide daytime and night time temperatures of between 22-27°C (72-80°F) should be provided.

Make sure temperatures are checked regularly to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

Lighting

A LED Light should be used with these tarantulas to give them to day and night cycle. They are a nocturnal species and should be provided with plenty of dark hiding areas to sleep away from the brightness of a LED Light.

DIET & WATER

Babies through to adults should be offered appropriately sized insects. A Tarantula uses its fangs to puncture its captured prey which renders it motionless. Digestive juices are then passed into the prey, which turns the insides to liquid, allowing the Tarantula to suck up the nutritious juices.

A source of fresh water should always be available for these Tarantulas. A piece of wet sponge or an insect gel can be used in a shallow dish to allow the Tarantula to hydrate itself. The Tarantula's enclosure should be lightly misted every other day to ensure that the humidity is kept at around 75-85% but the substrate must not be allowed to become overly wet or boggy.

Substrates and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your Glass Terrarium or Plastic Faunarium but we recommend the following as a guide:

- 1) Substrates: Tarantulas can be housed on Spider Substrate or a Bioactive Substrate. These substrates will retain essential moisture, helping to maintain humidity levels. Sphagnum Moss can also be used to keep humidity levels high, either place this on top of the substrate layer or mix it in with the substrate.
- 2) Wood for climbing and hiding in - Cork Branches, Tube and Pieces should be used to create vertical perching areas and hollows for the Tarantula to hide and rest in.
- 3) Artificial or live plants for decoration and to provide darker areas for the Tarantula to hide away in if it chooses to, live plants will also help to keep humidity levels up.

SUPPLEMENTATION

Arboreal Tarantulas do not need to receive additional supplementation to their diet.

ADDITIONAL INFO

- 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!
- The Arboreal Tarantulas covered in this guide can sometimes shoot out a white sticky substance from their rear ends when being handled. This is actually faeces and is a natural mechanism to make a predator think twice about eating them, giving the Tarantula a chance to retreat to safety.

HEALTH & HYGIENE

We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Tarantula healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Change old water for fresh water	Spot clean	Check vents on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely
Weekly	Disinfect water bowl or dish	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build up and to allow any dirty bedding to be removed, add dry leaves and rotten wood if required	Wipe down glass with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Take out old substrate and replace with new substrate	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling your Tarantula their enclosure and any other equipment.

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