

Common Breeds



Scientific Name: *Brachypelma smithi*

Common names: Mexican red knee.

Size: leg span of about 5 - 5.5 inches.

Life Span (females): 15-25 years, males have a much shorter life span.

Terrestrial/burrowing

Scientific Name: *Brachypelma emilia*

Common names: Mexican Redleg

Size: leg span of up to 5-6 inches.

Life Span (female): Up to 30 years.

Terrestrial/burrowing

Scientific Name: *Grammostola rosea*

Common Names: Chilean Common, Chilean Fire, Chilean Rose Haired, and Chilean Flame Tarantula

Size: leg span of 4.5 - 5.5 inches.

Life Span (females): 15+ years (males much shorter).

Terrestrial/burrowing

Scientific Name: *Avicularia avicularia*

Size: leg span of around 4.5 - 5 inches

Life Span (females): up to 10+ years (males much shorter)

Arboreal

Supply list

Here's a list of the necessities you'll need to take home to help your new tarantula stay healthy and happy. Please ask one of our pet experts to help you choose these items.

Home

- ❖ 10 gallon aquarium with tight fitting lid
- ❖ Hiding place
- ❖ Coconut fibre, peat moss
- ❖ Very shallow water dish

Food

- ❖ Live crickets

Extras

- ❖ Plants or driftwood
- ❖ Cage cleaner and disinfectant (Read and follow label instructions)

Tip

Dropping a tarantula from a height of just 30 cm could mean death for your pet.

Tarantulas are natural escape artists so a tight fitting lid is essential!

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TARANTULA



For Ages: 14 & up, with adult supervision

Pet lifespan: 10 - 30 years. Varies by species

Pet Size: 4.5 - 6 inches. Varies by species

Health

Signs of a healthy tarantula:

- ❖ Active
- ❖ Has all 8 legs and 2 pedipalps (like arms) at the front
- ❖ No bald patches on abdomen

Things to watch for:

- ❖ Avoid spiders that are hunched with their legs curled under them
- ❖ Bald patches on the abdomen
- ❖ No water dish in cage (not enough humidity)

Habitat

Housing: A 10 gallon aquarium with 2-3 inches of substrate and a secure lid

A place to hide should also be provided - a piece of cork bark works well, or a half hollow log, or half a clay flower pot on its side.

Temperature: Heating strips or pads can be placed under a small part of the cage for heating needs. Most species of tarantula do fine somewhere between 75-85 F.

Water: A shallow water dish can be provided. It needs to be very shallow to prevent drowning, and if there is any doubt some pebbles can be placed in the dish to give the spider something to climb out if necessary.

Things to Remember

Special needs: Housing should be kept in a darker area of a room, where direct sunlight will not fall on the cage.

Molting: This is how the spider grows to a larger size - by shedding the old exoskeleton and producing a new one. This is a stressful time for a spider and this is also when humidity levels are most critical. The spider stop eating for some time, then will lay on it's back to molt. The molting process may take several hours. Once the old exoskeleton is shed it will take several days for the new one to harden (this is when growth occurs) and the spider should not be fed during this time as it is vulnerable to injury and even death from something as small as a cricket. In addition, the spider should never be handled during the molting and hardening time. It may take up to two weeks for the spider to fully recover after molting.

*When molting the spider is very vulnerable and even a cricket can kill the spider, so remove any uneaten prey within 24 hours at most.

Tip

Many tarantula experts advise against handling your tarantula as bites can be painful, and irritation can result from contact with the itching hairs on the tarantula,

Traits & Behavior

Temperament: Mexican redknee tarantulas are generally docile and calm.

This is the "classic" pet tarantula and has enjoyed tremendous popularity due to its beauty, temperament and long life span.

Temperament: Chilean Rose Tarantulas are usually docile and calm.

A combination of traits makes this species often recommended as the ideal species for beginners. Hardy and docile, this spider is commonly available, inexpensive, and easy to care for.

Temperament: Pinktoe Tarantulas are usually docile, but are very fast! They are also very hard to catch if they escape.

Arboreal spiders are considered a bit more difficult to keep than terrestrial/burrowing species.

Nutrition

Staple diet: Crickets are the staple diet for these large spiders.

Treats: Meal worms, super worms, and roaches can be fed occasionally.

Water: A water dish needs to be very shallow to prevent drowning, and if there is any doubt some pebbles can be placed in the dish to give the spider something to climb out if necessary.