



HERMIT CRAB CARE GUIDE





Australian Hermit Crabs are native to the coastal regions of north Western Australia & the Northern Territory.

HOUSING

Hermit Crabs should be housed in either a plastic or glass enclosure, such as a terrarium, fish tank or something similar. We have a number of Hermit Crab Kits in store that are suitable.

Hermit Crabs love to climb! So ensure that they are unable to escape (they can move pretty quickly), but it is important for their enclosure to have fresh air.

On the bottom of the enclosure use aquarium gravel or a hermit crab substrate. It should be between around 2cm deep. You can use more gravel as Hermit Crabs love to bury themselves, however, if they do this they can also tip over their water and food bowls, so you will need to check these twice daily.

In addition to the gravel, Hermit Crabs love to climb and explore, so add interesting objects where they can explore and hide. Hermit Crabs are nocturnal so they will do most of their exploring at night.

FEEDING

Hermit Crabs eat about anything, so in addition to '*Crazy Crab Chow*', you can add small amounts of fresh vegetables and fruit for them to snack on.



HERMIT CRABS ARE AN UNUSUAL PET, WHICH ARE GENTAL, CLEAN & INTERACTIVE

They also require one bowl filled with fresh water (to drink) in addition to a bowl of salt water for them to bath in. Make sure the bowls are shallow enough for them to walk in and out, as they cannot swim.

TEMPERATURE

Hermit Crabs are originally from a tropical climate with warm humid summers and moderately cool winters.

With that in mind, during our summer, Hermit Crabs do not require any additional heating, just spray their enclosure once daily with a water bottle to assist with humidity. Hermit Crabs require a humid environment to keep their gills moist so they can breath properly.

Note: your water dishes will also create a humid environment. Ensure the enclosure does not become to 'damp' as this is also not good for their health.

However in winter a heater will be needed to keep them warm and active.

CHANGING SHELLS

Hermit Crabs can grow 3 - 5mm per year. At some stage they will 'outgrow their shell. It is important to have a number of shape and sized shells available for your crabs to move into. They can be fussy, so it is important to have a few different options for them.



MOULTING

Hermit Crabs are crustaceans, thus have a hard outer skin called an 'exoskeleton'. For the crab to be able to grow, they must first shed this exoskeleton. This is called moulting and usually occurs in summer.

Hermit Crabs generally moult at night. Their skin will crack and it then peels off. It takes about a week for their new skin to harden, so they will spend a lot of time in their shell or burrowed until this happens.

LOSS OF LIMBS

Hermit Crabs can lose their legs or pincers for a number of reasons. They do grow back but can take several growth spurts before they are fully grown.

HERMIT CRABS ARE SOCIAL CREATURES

Hermit Crabs live in large communities in the wild, and are the happiest with companions. However, they can become competitive for food and shells if you do not provide enough of each. Make sure your enclosure is large enough to ensure they have enough space to explore, climb and hide.

HOW TO SEX A HERMIT CRAB

Sexing a hermit crab is very difficult.

Female Hermit Crabs have tiny genitalia that become exposed when they're most, or all, of the way out of their shells. You may be able to coax your Hermit Crab out of their shell if they are familiar with being handled.

