

HERMIT CRAB HABITAT SETUP & CARE

Hermit crabs make great pets that are fun and entertaining. Despite their name, they are friendly and very social! Before bringing home your new hermies, it's important to have all the supplies you need such as housing, accessories, and food. This will ensure that your hermit crabs have an easy and healthy transition to your care.



Enclosure

Hermit crabs need plenty of space to thrive! For two small crabs, we recommend at least a 10-gallon plastic or glass tank with a screen top to prevent escape, but more room may be required as they grow. Avoid placing the tank in direct sunlight, near windows or drafts, or in any place with extreme temperatures.

Substrate

Hermies are natural diggers, and it's important that you provide enough deep moist sand to protect your crabs during the molting process. The proper amount is 3 times deeper than the height of your largest crab. Avoid calcium carbonate sand as it doesn't retain moisture and can stick to your crab's legs and abdomen.

Food & Water Bowls

You'll also need to add two water bowls and a smaller food bowl. The water bowls should be large enough for crabs to submerge in, but not so big that they get stuck. Fill one with fresh water and one with saltwater (make sure to dechlorinate both). Place a sea sponge in each dish to allow crabs to get in and out safely, and to help maintain humidity.

Accessories

Hermit crabs love to climb and hide. Decorate their home with branches, half logs, driftwood, caves, and shells. Add some Catappa leaves for them to hide under and nibble on. And don't forget to keep extra growth shells in their enclosure for when they need something bigger.

Quick Facts

Hermit Crabs are intelligent and friendly.

The average adult size is between 2-6 inches long.

With proper care, hermit crabs can live 10 years or longer.

They live on land, not in water.

They need friends! Hermit crabs are social animals and ideally need to be in pairs or groups.

Temperature & Humidity

The temperature inside the enclosure should always be between 72-82 degrees. Use a quality tank heater or clamp lamp to maintain temperature. Hermies also need moist, humid air to breathe properly. Mist your tank with dechlorinated water to keep relative humidity between 60-80%.

HERMIT CRAB HABITAT SETUP & CARE

Diet & Nutrition

Hermit crabs are omnivorous scavengers. Commercially prepared hermit crab food has a proper balance of vitamins and minerals for your crabs. Pelleted foods can be fed once a day and should be crushed especially for smaller crabs. Feed at night and remove uneaten food daily.

Hermies need a lot of calcium to support the health of their exoskeleton especially during molting, so we recommend adding calcium vitamin supplements to their food.

Handling & Safety

Hermit crabs can be vulnerable while molting, because their bodies are soft. During this time, isolate them from their roommates and be careful not to drop them onto a hard surface; doing so can injure or kill them.

Never release hermit crabs into the wild. They aren't likely to survive and can harm the local ecosystem.

If you notice any of these symptoms of illness or distress, contact a veterinarian: increased appetite or activity, staying outside of the shell, excessive molting, lost claws or limbs, strong odor from inside the shell.

Shopping List

Our specialty product line, Hermit Headquarters, includes everything necessary for your hermit crabs to live long healthy lives. Here's an at-a-glance list of the items mentioned in this care sheet. See more options and shop online at www.flukerfarms.com.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Screen Cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Driftwood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Beach Sand Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Live Moss |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Corner Water Bowl | <input type="checkbox"/> Clamp Lamp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-Ground Water Bowl | <input type="checkbox"/> Nighttime Bulb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Feeding Dish | <input type="checkbox"/> Daylight Bulb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Sea Sponge | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Mat for Hermit Crab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater Conditioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Combo Thermo-Hygrometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saltwater Concentrate & Conditioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Repta-Sprayer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soaking Salt | <input type="checkbox"/> Calcium Supplement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Castle Crib | <input type="checkbox"/> Buffet Blend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catappa Leaves | <input type="checkbox"/> Premium Pellet Diet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critter Cavern Half Logs | <input type="checkbox"/> Premium Varsity Diet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habi-Cave | <input type="checkbox"/> Canned River Shrimp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Crab Growth Shells | <input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Crab Color Enhancer |

