

PASSION *for* PETS

Hermit Crab Information Care Sheet



Check list

- 18" Tank or larger.
- Aquarium Gravel.
- Fresh water bowl.
- Food bowl.
- Salt water bowl
- Salt bath crystals.
- Hermit crab food.
- Aquarium background.
- Spare shells.
- Rocks & Ornaments
- Cover glass or Critter lid.
- Heat source / light
- Thermometer.
- Sea sponge.
- Water ager.

SETTING UP YOUR TANK

Choose a location for your hermit crab tank. Position your tank out of direct sunlight and cool breezes. Thoroughly rinse the aquarium gravel in fresh water through a strainer then place it in an even layer across the bottom of the tank. Wash your rocks and ornaments in fresh water and use these to decorate your tank. Make sure you position your ornaments so your crab cannot use these to climb out of the tank. They are excellent climbers! Scatter any spare shells around the tank for your hermit crab to explore. Fill a jug with one litre of tap water then add the appropriate amount of water ager to remove any chlorine or like chemicals. Wait 20 minutes then fill your hermit crabs water bowl with this water. Add the appropriate amount of salt bath crystals to the remaining water in the jug. Wait 5 minutes then use this to fill your hermit crabs salt-water bowl. Position the food and water bowls so that your hermit crab has easy access to them. Remember your hermit crab cannot swim so make sure they are not too deep or your hermit crab will drown. Place your thermometer on the inside wall of your tank. Place the light above the tank. This will be the heat source for your crab. Make sure the power cord isn't inside the tank, your hermit crab will use this to escape. Also make sure the light is not shining directly on either of the water bowls, as they will evaporate. Place the sea sponge in the corner of the tank. Using tape put the background on the outside back wall of your tank. Place your hermit crabs into their new home and put the lid on the tank.

JUST PRIOR TO PURCHASING YOUR HERMIT CRAB

Before you bring your hermit crab home it is important to make sure you have everything that your hermit crab will need. Hermit crabs are a tropical animal and they require a warm home. They need to be kept at 21-30°C. They also need humidity to breathe properly. Placing a heat source above the tank, such as a light with a 60-watt or higher globe, and placing a sea sponge in the tank can create humidity. Hermit crabs must also be kept on dry bedding; if the aquarium gravel becomes wet you will need to replace it.

PURCHASING YOUR HERMIT CRAB

Your Passion for Pets staff member will help you with your selection of a hermit crab. The size of the tank that you choose will vary the amount of hermit crabs that you can keep. Your Passion for Pets staff member will tell you how many hermit crabs happily live in your size tank.

ARRIVING HOME

Your hermit crab will be sent home in a carry box. Leave your hermit crab in the box until you have set up your tank. When you are ready open the box and gently remove your hermit crab to put it into its new home. Your her-

mit crab will be shy and thirsty so make sure there is plenty of fresh water available. Give your hermit crab some quiet time to get used to it's new home.

FEEDING YOUR HERMIT CRAB

You should offer your hermit crab fresh food every day. Your hermit crab will enjoy a varied diet consisting of: hermit crab food, desiccated coconut, apples, banana, pear, grapes, carrots, corn kernels and other tidbits of fresh fruits and vegetables. Make sure you remove and replenish the food daily to prevent spoiling.

TANK MAINTENANCE

To keep your hermit crab happy and healthy you should remove the gravel and thoroughly wash and dry it once a month. Using warm water and a cloth you can wipe out the tank. Never use any detergents or cleaning aids such as Windex in or around the tank as they will poison your hermit crab. Your hermit crabs water and salt bath should be changed every other day.

MOULTING

Did you know that your hermit crab will moult once a year? They shed their skin and grow a bigger one. Don't remove the old skin, as your hermit crab will eat this to provide enough nutrients to grow their new skin. Hermit crabs can lose limbs but don't worry as they will grow back after moulting. Moulting takes around 30 days and your hermit crab will burrow down into the gravel during this time. While this is happening it is important not to touch your hermit crab as its' skin will be very sensitive.

PLAYING WITH YOUR HERMIT CRAB

Hermit crabs love to climb and you can have great fun watching your hermit crab. Be careful that your hermit crab doesn't fall off the furniture. Hermit crabs can be shy so it is important that you frequently handle your hermit crab gently so it will get to know you. When picking up your hermit crab do so slowly, if it has a hold of something, do not keep pulling on it as it is possible to pull it out of its shell!

If your hermit crab holds onto your skin the best way to get it to let go is by putting your hermit crab under running water.

CONTACT US

Our friendly staff are always available to answer your questions so please don't hesitate to contact us for further information.