



TERRESTRIAL TARANTULAS

# CARE GUIDE

THE NEW BEGINNING WAY



# Aborbal Tarantula Care Guide

Caring for an aborbal tarantula can be a fascinating and rewarding experience. These unique creatures are known for their striking appearance and intriguing behaviors. This guide will provide you with all the essential information you need to ensure your tarantula thrives in its environment.

## Understanding Aborbal Tarantulas

Aborbal tarantulas, often referred to as arboreal tarantulas, are species that naturally dwell in trees. They possess long legs and a slender body, adapted for climbing and living above ground. These tarantulas are generally more colorful and active than their terrestrial counterparts.

## Common Species

- **Avicularia avicularia:** Known as the pinktoe tarantula, this species is popular for its docile nature and vibrant coloring.
- **Caribena versicolor:** The Antilles pinktoe is admired for its striking blue coloration as a juvenile, which transitions to a multicolored adult.
- **Poecilotheria regalis:** Also known as the Indian ornamental, this species is famous for its intricate patterns and vivid markings.

## Setting Up the Habitat

Creating a suitable habitat is crucial for the well-being of your arboreal tarantula. Here's how you can set up an ideal environment:

### Enclosure

- **Size:** A vertical terrarium is best, as these tarantulas appreciate ample climbing space. A 12x12x18 inch enclosure is suitable for most adults.
- **Material:** Glass or acrylic terrariums are preferred for their visibility and ease of cleaning.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure the enclosure has adequate ventilation to prevent mold growth and maintain air quality.

### Substrate

- **Type:** Use a moisture-retentive substrate such as coconut fiber or sphagnum moss.
- **Depth:** A layer of about 2-3 inches should suffice to maintain humidity and provide a soft landing if they fall.

### Climbing Structures

- **Branches and Bark:** Include sturdy branches or cork bark to mimic their natural habitat and encourage climbing.
- **Plants:** Consider adding live plants to enhance aesthetics and help maintain humidity levels.

### Temperature and Humidity

- **Temperature:** Maintain a temperature range of 75°F to 85°F (24°C to 29°C).
- **Humidity:** Aim for a humidity level of 70% to 80%. Mist the enclosure lightly every few days to maintain these levels.

## Feeding and Nutrition

A balanced diet is essential for your tarantula's health:

- **Diet:** Feed a variety of insects such as crickets, roaches, and occasionally mealworms.
- **Frequency:** Juveniles should be fed every 5-7 days, while adults can be fed every 7-10 days.

- **Water:** Provide a shallow water dish to ensure hydration, and change the water regularly to prevent contamination.

## Handling and Interaction

While aborbal tarantulas are generally not aggressive, handling should be minimized:

- **Stress:** Handling can cause stress, leading to defensive behavior or injury to the tarantula.
- **Observation:** Enjoy watching their natural behaviors and interactions within their habitat.

## Health and Well-being

Regular monitoring is key to keeping your tarantula healthy:

- **Molting:** Be aware of the molting process, during which your tarantula may become inactive and refuse food.
- **Signs of Illness:** Watch for signs such as lethargy, refusal to eat, or abnormal movements, which can indicate health issues.

By following this care guide, you can provide a safe and enriching environment for your aborbal tarantula, ensuring it leads a long and healthy life. Enjoy the unique experience of caring for one of nature's most fascinating creatures!



# Terrestrial Tarantula Care Guide

Caring for a terrestrial tarantula can be a rewarding experience. These fascinating creatures require specific conditions to thrive. Below, you'll find a comprehensive guide on how to properly care for your terrestrial tarantula.

## Choosing the Right Tarantula

Before acquiring a tarantula, it's crucial to research different species to find one that matches your experience level. Some popular terrestrial tarantulas for beginners include:

- **Chilean Rose Hair (Grammostola rosea)**: Known for their docile nature.
- **Mexican Red Knee (Brachypelma hamorii)**: Attractive and relatively easy to care for.
- **Curly Hair Tarantula (Tliltocatl albopilosus)**: Hardy and forgiving of minor care mistakes.

## Habitat Setup

### Enclosure

- **Size**: A 5 to 10-gallon tank is typically sufficient for most terrestrial tarantulas. Ensure the enclosure is more wide than tall to prevent falls.
- **Material**: Glass or plastic enclosures work well.
- **Lid**: Secure but ventilated; tarantulas are adept escape artists.

### Substrate

- **Depth**: Provide at least 2-4 inches of substrate for burrowing.
- **Material**: Use coconut fiber, peat moss, or a mix of soil and vermiculite. Avoid chemically treated substrates.

## Temperature and Humidity

- **Temperature**: Maintain a gradient of 70-85°F (21-29°C).
- **Humidity**: Generally, 60-70% is ideal. Use a hygrometer to monitor levels.
- **Heating**: Use a heat mat on the side of the tank if necessary, never underneath.

### Decor

- **Hides**: Provide at least one hide, such as a half log or a flower pot, for security.
- **Water Dish**: A shallow, sturdy dish should always have fresh water.
- **Avoid**: Sharp or abrasive decorations that might injure your tarantula.

## Feeding

- **Diet**: Feed your tarantula live insects such as crickets, roaches, or mealworms.

- **Feeding Frequency:** Juveniles should be fed every 3-5 days, while adults can be fed weekly.
- **Prey Size:** Ensure prey is no larger than the tarantula's abdomen.
- **Observation:** Remove uneaten prey after 24 hours to prevent stress.

## Handling and Interaction

- **Handling:** Minimal handling is recommended, as tarantulas can be fragile and stress easily.
- **Observation:** Enjoy your tarantula's behavior from outside the enclosure.
- **Molting:** Be aware of molting signs, such as lethargy and refusal to eat, and do not disturb during this process.

## Health and Maintenance

### Signs of a Healthy Tarantula

- **Active:** Moves around the enclosure regularly.
- **Eating:** Accepts food readily.
- **Appearance:** Has a full, undamaged abdomen.

### Common Health Issues

- **Dehydration:** Can be identified by a shrunken abdomen; ensure a fresh water source.
- **Injury:** Handle with care to prevent falls or injuries.
- **Parasites:** Regularly clean the enclosure to prevent mites.

### Regular Maintenance

- **Cleanliness:** Spot clean regularly and fully clean the enclosure every 3-6 months.
- **Water:** Change water daily to prevent bacterial growth.
- **Monitoring:** Regularly check temperature and humidity levels.

Caring for a terrestrial tarantula can be an enjoyable hobby that offers the opportunity to observe these unique creatures up close. By providing the proper environment, diet, and care, you can ensure your tarantula remains healthy and happy.

