



## Wet Pets N Critters

### Land Hermit Crab Care Guide

Land hermit crabs are fascinating, social creatures that make unique and low-maintenance pets. With the right care, they can live **5–10 years** or longer.

---

#### Housing

- **Enclosure Size:**
    - A **10-gallon tank** is the minimum for 1–2 crabs. A larger tank (20 gallons or more) is better for multiple crabs.
  - **Lid:**
    - Use a **secure screen lid** to maintain humidity and prevent escapes.
  - **Substrate:**
    - Use a mix of **coconut fiber** and **play sand** (both available at Wet Pets N Critters) in a ratio of about 5:1 sand to coconut fiber. Depth should be **at least 3–5 inches** for proper burrowing.
  - **Hides and Decor:**
    - Provide **hides, caves, climbing branches, and shells** for enrichment and molting.
- 

#### Temperature & Humidity

- **Temperature:** 75–85°F
    - Use a **low-wattage heat mat** (on the side of the tank) or a **ceramic heat emitter** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) to maintain warmth.
  - **Humidity:** 70–80%
    - Mist the enclosure daily and monitor with a **humidity gauge**.
  - **Lighting:** Normal room lighting is sufficient. Hermit crabs are nocturnal and do not require UVB.
- 

#### Water

Provide **two shallow water dishes:**

- One with **dechlorinated fresh water**
  - One with **saltwater** (made using a **marine salt mix**—available at Wet Pets N Critters)
- Both dishes should be shallow enough for the crab to climb in and out safely.

## Diet

Land hermit crabs are **omnivores**. Offer a balanced diet that includes:

- **Commercial hermit crab food** (available at Wet Pets N Critters)
- Fresh fruits (apple, mango, banana)
- Vegetables (spinach, carrot, squash)
- Occasional protein like boiled egg, unsalted nuts, or freeze-dried shrimp

Provide a **calcium source**, such as **cuttlebone**, to support shell health.

## Shells

Hermit crabs grow and need new shells! Always provide a **variety of extra shells** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) in different sizes. Choose **natural shells** without paint or decorations.

## Cleaning & Maintenance

- Spot-clean daily to remove waste.
- Replace food and water daily.
- Replace substrate every 2–3 months, or sooner if soiled.
- Clean the enclosure and decor with a **reptile-safe cleaner** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) as needed.

## Handling

Hermit crabs are best **observed, not handled**. They may pinch if startled. Limit handling to avoid stress.

## Health Tips

Signs of a healthy hermit crab:

- Active and curious at night
- Smooth, intact shell
- Regular molting (may hide for weeks during a molt—this is normal)

## Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- 10–20 gallon tank
- Secure screen lid
- Coconut fiber and play sand
- Hides, caves, and climbing branches
- Variety of extra shells
- Shallow water dishes (x2)
- Marine salt mix
- Hermit crab food
- Calcium source (cuttlebone)
- Low-wattage heat mat or ceramic heat emitter
- Humidity gauge
- Misting bottle
- Reptile-safe cleaner

---