



Wet Pets N Critters Tarantula Care Guide

(For Common Pet Species: Chilean Rose Hair, Pink Toe, Curly Hair, Mexican Red Knee, and More)

Tarantulas are fascinating and low-maintenance pets that can be a great choice for beginner and experienced keepers alike. With proper care, many species can live **10–20 years** in captivity.

Housing

- **Enclosure Size:**
 - A **5–10 gallon tank** or a secure **plastic terrarium** is ideal for most medium-sized tarantulas.
- **Substrate:**
 - Use **coconut fiber** or **reptile soil** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) at least **2–4 inches deep** for burrowing species.
- **Decor:**
 - Provide a **hide** (cork bark, half log, or artificial cave) for security.
 - For arboreal species like Pink Toes, include **vertical climbing branches** and **plants**.
- **Water:**
 - A **shallow water dish** should always be available. Clean and refill daily.

Temperature & Humidity

- **Temperature:** 70–80°F (room temperature is usually fine).
- **Humidity:** Varies by species:
 - **Arid species** (Chilean Rose Hair, Curly Hair, Red Knee): 50–60%
 - **Tropical species** (Pink Toe, Goliath Birdeater): 70–80%

Mist lightly as needed based on species. Monitor with a **humidity gauge**.

Lighting

Tarantulas **do not require special lighting**. Normal room light is enough. Avoid direct sunlight or heat lamps.

Diet

Feed a variety of **live insects**, including:

- Crickets
- Dubia roaches
- Mealworms (occasionally)

Feed adult tarantulas **once or twice a week**. Remove uneaten prey after 24 hours.

Cleaning & Maintenance

- Spot-clean the enclosure weekly.
- Replace substrate every 2–3 months.
- Clean water dish daily and refill with fresh water.
- Use a **reptile-safe cleaner** (available at Wet Pets N Critters) for deep cleaning.

Handling

Tarantulas are generally **observe-only pets**. While some may tolerate gentle handling (like Chilean Rose Hairs), others (like Pink Toes) are more delicate and can jump or run quickly. Always handle over a soft surface and with extreme care—or avoid handling altogether.

Molting

Tarantulas shed their exoskeleton to grow. During molting:

- They may refuse food.
- They may lie on their back—**this is normal, not a sign of distress**.
- Leave them undisturbed until they harden—this can take several days.

Health Tips

A healthy tarantula should:

- Be alert when disturbed.
- Have a rounded, plump abdomen.
- Show normal feeding behavior.

Signs of concern:

- Shrunken abdomen
- Curled legs
- Refusing food for long periods (outside of molting)

Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- 5–10 gallon tank or secure plastic terrarium
- Secure lid
- Coconut fiber or reptile soil
- Hides (cork bark, half log, artificial cave)
- Vertical branches for arboreal species
- Shallow water dish
- Humidity gauge (optional)
- Misting bottle
- Live insects (crickets, dubia roaches, mealworms)
- Reptile-safe cleaner