



Wet Pets N Critters

Beetle Care Guide

Beetles are fascinating, low-maintenance invertebrates that are fun to observe and make unique pets. Many species are available, including **flower beetles**, **darkling beetles**, and **rhino beetles**. With proper care, many beetles live **6 months to 2 years**, depending on the species.

Housing

- **Enclosure:**
 - A **plastic critter keeper** or **glass tank** with a secure lid works well.
 - Provide a **2–4 inch layer of substrate** (see below) for digging and egg-laying.
 - **Substrate:**
 - Use **coconut fiber**, **reptile soil**, or **insect-safe substrate** (available at Wet Pets N Critters). Some species enjoy a mix of coconut fiber and decaying leaf litter.
 - **Decor:**
 - Add **bark pieces**, **branches**, or **cork rounds** for climbing and hiding.
 - Provide a **shallow water dish** with a damp sponge or cotton for safe drinking (no standing water to prevent drowning).
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Temperature & Humidity

- **Temperature:**
 - Most beetles do well at **70–80°F**.
 - Use a **low-wattage heat mat** if needed, available at Wet Pets N Critters.
 - **Humidity:**
 - Keep humidity around **60–80%**, depending on species. Mist the enclosure lightly every few days, but avoid soggy conditions.
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Diet

- **Food:**
 - Many beetles enjoy **insect jelly**, **fruit slices** (like banana, apple, or melon), and **special beetle food** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).

- Some species may also eat **decaying wood** or **leaf litter**—ask our staff for species-specific care tips.
 - Replace uneaten food every 2–3 days to prevent mold.
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Cleaning & Maintenance

- Spot-clean waste and remove old food regularly.
 - Replace substrate every **4–6 weeks**, or as needed.
 - Clean the enclosure with a **small animal-safe cleaner** from Wet Pets N Critters.
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Handling

Beetles are generally best **observed, not handled**. Some species are more tolerant of gentle handling, but always move slowly and carefully.

Breeding

Some beetle species may lay eggs in the substrate. If you notice larvae, leave them undisturbed to develop. Many species require **decaying wood** or **leaf litter** for successful breeding.

Health Tips

A healthy beetle should:

- Be active and alert
- Have a shiny, intact exoskeleton
- Show interest in food

If your beetle is inactive for long periods, it may be in a natural rest phase (such as pupating) or nearing the end of its life cycle.

Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- Plastic critter keeper or glass tank
- Secure lid
- Coconut fiber or insect-safe substrate
- Bark pieces, branches, or cork
- Insect jelly and beetle food
- Water dish with sponge or cotton
- Misting bottle
- Small animal-safe cleaner
- Low-wattage heat mat (if needed)

