

Australian Hermit Crab Care Guide

•Quick Facts•

- We can live for up to 15 years in captivity
- We grow by moulting, this means we shed our old exoskeleton. We prefer to do this under the sand, inside our moult cave.
- Being a very social species, we must be housed with friends, or we get lonely.
- We carry water inside our shell to keep our soft abdomens and gills moist.
- Our species is *Coenobita Variabilis*, the Australian Hermit Crab. We vary in colour from light beige through to dark browns and red.



Providing a proper environment

We require at least 38L of space per crab, with deep substrate that is a minimum of 6" (15cm) deep. This should be made up of 8 parts play sand and 1 part of damp coir peat. This offers us ample space for moulting. Glass fish tanks make perfect crab habitats! Please avoid using tanks with air holes, we don't breathe fresh air.

Heat and humidity

We will require high heat and humidity to survive. We feel most comfortable with heat between 27-32.c degrees at all times, and humidity between 70-85% in order to breathe. We absorb oxygen in humidity through our modified gills. Unlike humans, we do not have lungs, so we do not require fresh air or ventilation holes in our tanks.

Take good care of your hermit crabs and they will thrive

Salt water & fresh water pools

Provide us with a salt water and fresh water pool. Use marine salt for our salt pool and fresh water for our fresh pool. Both pools should be treated with Seachem Prime Water Conditioner to remove nasties from your tap water. Pools should be deep enough to fully submerge our shell, with a safe way in and out of the pools.

Heat source

Only use heat mats or heat cords on our tanks, and always place them outside of the tank, above the substrate line. Never place our heat source under or inside the tank, this can burn us. Stick our heat source to the back of the tank to keep us warm and cover it with an insulation mat. We only need hot air, not hot sand.

Feeding and nutrition

Being Omnivores, we require meat, fruits and vegetables, nuts and seeds, and plant matter in our diet. Offer us a balanced diet filled with protein sources, beta-carotenes, carbohydrates, omega-3 fats, plant matter and lots of calcium. A balanced diet will support our health and longevity.

Shells

Please offer us all natural shells, these are safest for our health. We require at least 6 spare shells that are suited to our size. You can measure our shell opening using a ruler or digital caliper to ensure you are offering the right sizes to us. Offer us various shell openings and shell styles so we have ample shells to choose from.

Enrichment

Offer us lots of enrichment items to keep us busy and entertained. Fill our crab habitat with hides, wheels, greenery, ladders, vines, hammocks, wood, and other fun things for us to do. We love climbing, so make sure to provide lots of climbing activities for us!

Love us from a distance

While we are so glad to be living with you, please don't remove us from our tanks to play. We get stressed very easily and don't like to be touched and played with. We prefer to stay warm and safe inside our tank. You can watch and love us from a distance. This will make us feel safe and will reduce our stress levels. Please only handle us when absolutely necessary.

For more info

www.happyhermie.com.au

Owners have a responsibility to take care of their pets

