



# pets in the classroom



## CARE SHEET

### TARANTULAS

#### Housing

Tarantulas are best housed individually in a large terrarium that includes a locking screen lid. The size of the terrarium should accommodate at least three times the leg-span long and two times the leg-span wide of your tarantula to provide ample space for exercise and other normal behaviors.

#### Environment

Tarantulas require a habitat that controls both temperature and humidity levels in a gradient in order to allow them to regulate their body temperature by moving between the warm and cool sides of their home. Their habitat should be equipped with a thermometer on each side and a hygrometer in the middle to measure humidity levels. To heat the warm side of the habitat, use an under-tank heater. For lighting, tarantulas require a 12-hour light/dark cycle. This means that they don't need any specific ultraviolet light but if they are housed in a room that does not provide enough light, use a fluorescent bulb to create 12 hours of visible light each day. The bottom of their house should contain substrate such as coconut fiber or reptile bark and within their habitat a good place to hide and build webs should be provided.

#### Care

Handling tarantulas is not recommended as they can bite if they feel threatened or they can run and fall which makes them susceptible to injury. For dietary needs, tarantulas should be provided with fresh, clean water daily and fed an appropriate sized diet (food should be smaller than the tarantula) of live insects including crickets, mealworms, superworms, and roaches.