



HERMIT CRAB

Coenobita sp.

ORIGIN: Hermit crabs are crustaceans native to many parts of the world including the Caribbean and the South Pacific. In their native environments they live inland and away from saltwater.

SIZE: Hermit crabs vary in size. Their shells typically range from 1 inch to 4 inches.

CAGING: Hermit crabs will thrive in a variety of plastic and glass cages. The cage should have a secure lid and the ability to retain moisture.

SUBSTRATE: Hermit crabs can be successfully kept on a variety of substrates including sand and mulch.

TEMPERATURE: Hermit crabs will thrive in temperature ranges from 70°F to 80°F. It is beneficial to provide hermit crabs with a heat gradient by placing a small heat mat at one end of the cage. In cool areas, this is a necessity.

LIGHT: Hermit crabs do not require any special lighting because they are nocturnal.

WATER: Hermit crabs should be provided with fresh, clean water at all times. Use a small, shallow water bowl with a sponge placed in the center to prevent drowning. Hermit crabs should be misted every other day to maintain humidity levels above 50%.

DIET: Hermit crabs feed on a variety of organic material ranging from decaying wood to fallen fruit in their native habitats. In captivity, hermit crabs do best on a commercial diet which can be supplied in a shallow bowl.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Glass or plastic enclosure
- Secure lid for enclosure
- Substrate as detailed above
- Literature about hermit crabs
- Hiding and climbing area such as cork bark, grape vine, or coconut shells
- Shallow water dish and food bowl
- Extra shells so crabs can grow
- Spray bottle

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

- Fluorescent light
- Night light for nighttime viewing
- Silk plants and branches
- Decorative cage background
- Moist hide area
- Heat mat approximately half size of enclosure
- Thermometer to monitor temperature
- Fancy or hand painted shells
- Scallop shell bowls

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NOTE: The information contained in this caresheet solely represents the opinions of the author. It is not intended as a complete guide to captive husbandry.