

Mexican Red Leg Tarantula

The Mexican red leg tarantula ranges across the scrublands of Mexico and Panama. This species is quite docile and is suitable for beginners. They are closely related to the Mexican redknee tarantula. This species is an opportunistic burrower and will spend a lot of time out of their hide. This makes them a good display species. The life span of a male is usually up to 5 years however, females may live up to 20 years.

When a tarantula is moulting it may spin a web on the floor, lie on it and be on its back. Do not feed or mist the tarantula during this period as it is very vulnerable and should not be disturbed.

Glossary

Reptile – A cold-blooded vertebrate with scaly skin.

Amphibian – A cold-blooded vertebrate that begins life as an aquatic animal and grows into a terrestrial adult with lungs.

Terrestrial – A ground dwelling animal.

Arboreal – An animal that lives in trees.

Diurnal – Awake in the day.

Nocturnal – Awake during the night.

UVB – Ultraviolet radiation.

Colubrid – A family of snakes.

Hybrid – Offspring from animals of different species.

Morph – Colourations created due to genetics.

Musk – Unpleasant odour released when an animal is stressed or feels threatened.

Live plants are only available on special order

If you require any further information, please ask our pet care advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

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Care & Advice Sheet

Inspiration for your Home & Garden

Size & Housing

The Mexican red leg tarantula will grow up to 5–6 inches in leg span. They can be kept in specially designed glass terrariums or plastic tanks. We recommend the Exo Terra or Komodo reptile tanks:

45 x 45 x 30 cm / 18 x 18 x 12" – Minimum for 1 Adult



Lighting & Temperature

Artificial light can be provided but UVB is not essential. The enclosure will need to have a constant temperature between 22–24°C. Achieve this by using a heat mat, heat bulb or ceramic heat emitter with a guard, controlled by a thermostat at all times. The temperature should never go below 18°C.

Substrate & Furnishings

"A happy tarantula is one that you can't see." – A general rule of thumb. Does not apply to all tarantulas.

It is best to use soil based substrates such as humus bricks, spider life, peat moss or eco-earth. Another option is compost or potting soil **without fertilisers**. The substrate should be at least 3–4 inches deep and there should be hides and live or artificial plants for the spider to explore. Be careful not to fill the enclosure too much as the spider will still need space to move and moult.

Tarantulas produce tiny amounts of small white faeces but will leave a small ball of indigestible leftovers from their meal. Providing these are removed, fully cleaning the enclosure will not need to be a regular thing.

**Please Note – Live plants must be free of insecticides.
Do not use cactus plants.**

Food & Water

Spiderlings should be fed daily and adult tarantulas can be fed every 2–3 days. They are carnivores and should eat a variety of insects such as:

- Fruit flies (spiderlings)
- Crickets
- Locust
- Cockroaches
- Mealworms

This species requires a medium to high humidity. It is best to provide a small shallow dish of water that is changed daily. Use a shallow rock to cover the base of the dish if needed to prevent drowning. Mist near the water bowl to help raise the humidity.

Handling

Tarantulas are best kept as display animals. This species is particularly aggressive and nervous so handling is not recommended. Handling can be attempted but beware of their skittish nature. Any falls can cause serious injuries to tarantulas and can even be fatal. If they feel threatened, they may flick hairs at you or bite.