



komodo®

CARE GUIDE

SPIDER / SCORPION



CONGRATULATIONS! Spiders and Scorpions make great pets and we're sure you'll enjoy each other's company for many years to come. Choosing the correct enclosure and equipment is an important first step. Komodo reptile products are designed to ensure your new reptile pet gets off to a great start.

ABOUT SPIDERS AND SCORPIONS

Spiders and scorpions are not insects, but arachnids, having eight legs instead of six as insects do. Several species of spider and scorpion have become popular pets, including Chilean Rose Tarantulas, Red Knee Tarantulas and Emperor Scorpions amongst many others.

ENCLOSURES

Enclosures can range from W35xD25xH24cm to W40xD30xH35cm and are suitable for most common pet species of spider and scorpion. Check with your pet store specialist if you have any queries about your animal's specific needs.

SUBSTRATE

Komodo Tropical Terrain included in the kit should be used on the base of the vivarium. To keep humidity levels high for rainforest animals, the substrate should be made damp enough to form clumps. For desert species the substrate should be kept dry. Some keepers prefer Komodo CaCo3 Sand for desert species. Be sure to research the needs of your particular animal.

HEATING

Arachnids regulate their body temperature by moving between cooler and warmer areas. By installing the heat mat at one end of the enclosure on the end or back wall, your spider or scorpion can choose the temperature and location that suits them best. Most popular spiders prefer temperatures ranging from 21°C (70°F) at the cool end of the enclosure and up to 30°C (85°F) at the warm end. Most scorpions prefer temperatures from 21°C (70°F) to 37°C (99°F). Be sure to research the specific needs of your animal.

NEVER INSTALL HEAT MATS ON THE FLOOR OF THE ENCLOSURE AND THEN COVER, AND WITH SUBSTRATE.

CONTROL AND MONITORING

Komodo recommends that all heat mats are used in conjunction with a suitable thermostat such as the Komodo On/Off Thermostat. Check temperatures using the thermometer on the dual gauge. Best practice recommends placing a thermometer at both the hot end and the cool end for regular monitoring of temperatures. ***Remember that Heat Mats emit infrared heat and thermometers must be in contact with the mat to register the temperature.***

HUMIDITY AND SHELTER

Provide lots of foliage and vivarium furniture so that your spider or scorpion has plenty of opportunities to hide. For tropical species, spray the enclosure every day to maintain humidity levels of 50% - 60%. Humidity is very important for tropical species and particularly when the animal sheds their exoskeleton. This normally occurs 2 - 3 times a year for a young growing animal and perhaps yearly for an adult.

WATER

A shallow water dish should be provided. Komodo Beastie Drink is a recommended safe way to provide water without the risk of drowning.

ENRICHMENT

Add plenty of plants and shelters. These can be natural or artificial, whichever you like best. Cork bark and other furniture can be used to make shelters and platforms.

FEEDING

Pet spiders and scorpions should be fed on a variety of commercially available insects including crickets, locusts and mealworms.



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HANDLING

Both spiders and scorpions are venomous but most popular pet species have a bite or sting that is not harmful for most people. Allergic reactions to bites and stings are rare, but allergies can cause significant symptoms for a small number of people. Many keepers do not directly handle their pets, and the animal gains no benefit from being handled. Use a cricket tub or similar container to move your spider or scorpion to avoid handling. Make sure the lid of the container is on as spiders can jump surprising distances. If you do handle your spider or scorpion directly, be sure to hold them near to the ground as impact from even a low-level fall can be fatal. Scorpion keepers sometimes use long tweezers to move their animal, holding the scorpion on the segment of tail directly below the sting. Also note that many spiders will kick hairs from their abdomen when stressed. These hairs can cause irritation to your eyes and skin but significant symptoms are rare.

IN CONCLUSION, As with all animal care, thoroughly wash your hands after handling your reptile or items in the habitat. To the right are some timely reminders on Spider and Scorpion care in the handy format of a checklist:



Spider/Scorpion Checklist

DAILY

- Clean and refresh water/gel bowl
- Check correct temperatures are being maintained
- Check correct humidity is being maintained
- Remove any uneaten insects
- Visually inspect Spider/Scorpion
- Mist substrate if required
- Wash hands after servicing habitat or handling your spider or scorpion

EVERY OTHER DAY

- Offer food as required
- Record feeding data

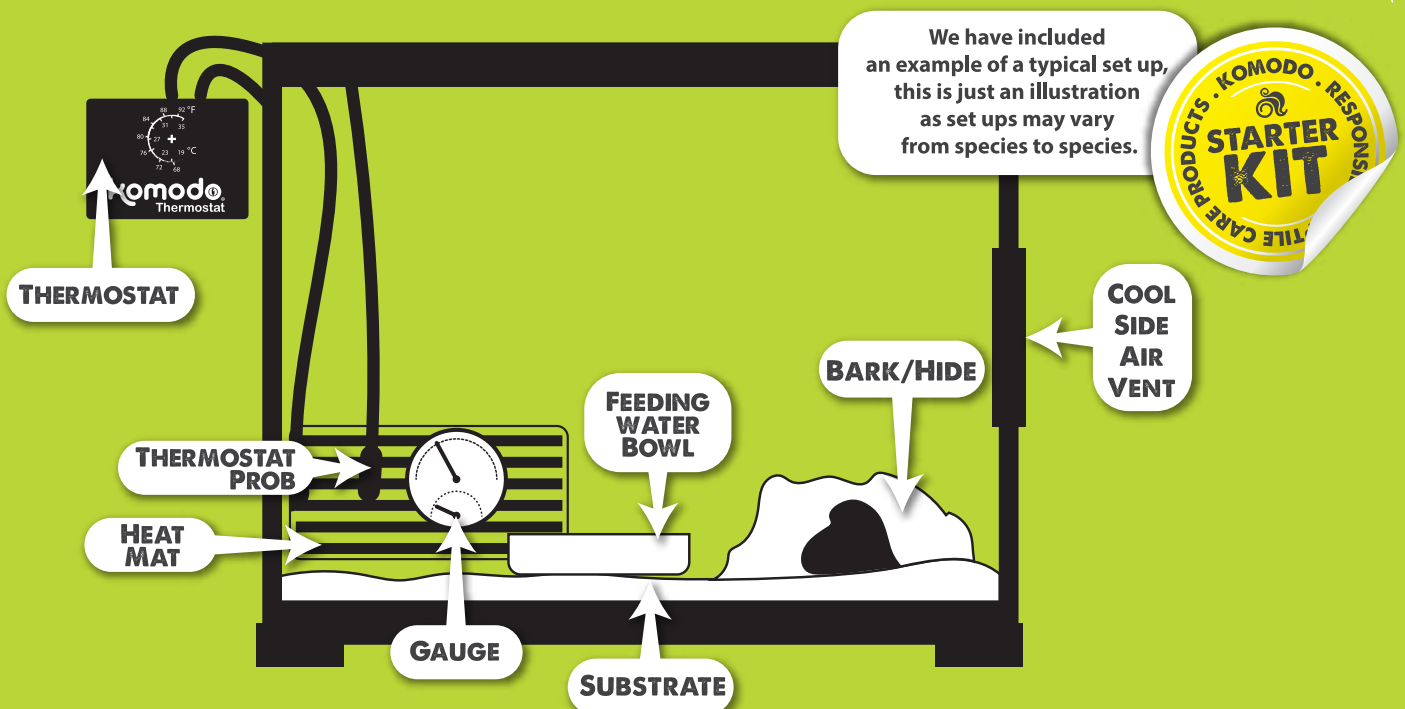
WEEKLY

- Clean glass
- Spot clean waste
- Top up substrate
- Clean decorative rocks, plants etc.

SEMI-ANNUALLY

- Remove and replace all substrate

NOTE: This basic wellbeing guide will help to get you started. It highlights the most important information that every keeper needs to know, but new keepers should research the husbandry needs of their animal in detail.



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