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# Hermit Crab

*Coenobita clypeatus*

## Care Sheet

### Average Size

2 - 6 inches long

### Average Lifespan

10+ years

### Diet

Hermit Crabs are scavengers. Prepared crab foods can be used along with other items such as raw coconut, seeds, peanut butter, small pieces of fruit, greens, freeze dried crickets, mealworms and shrimp. A source of calcium such as a cuttlebone is recommended.

### Feeding

Hermit Crabs are scavengers and prefer having food available at all times.

### Housing

**Habitat** - Hermit Crabs are native to the Caribbean. Hermit Crabs do like to climb. Provide pieces of cork bark of varying sizes and heights to allow them to move around the enclosure. Hermit Crabs primarily hunt and forage at night and are buried/hiding during the day. Provide multiple empty shells to allow the crabs to switch "homes."

**Size** - Hermit Crabs should be kept in no less than a 10-gallon enclosure for 2 Hermit crabs. Hermit Crabs are found in groups in the wild and do best when kept with others of the same species which would require a larger enclosure.

**Substrate** - Hermit Crabs like a moist, deep, sand/soil substrate that will allow for them to burrow and properly molt.

**Temperature** - Temperatures between 75-85°F are perfect for Hermit Crabs which can be achieved with a heat lamp or under tank heater. Consistent temperatures under 75°F or above 85°F can kill hermit crabs.

**Humidity** - The humidity of the enclosure should also be kept relatively high with a minimum of 75% humidity.

**Watering** - Hermit Crabs require both fresh and saltwater pools that are easy to get in and out of. Hermit Crabs always need access to water to keep their gills moist.

**Lighting** - Since this is a nocturnal species, it requires only one light bulb. This is the heat lamp which also emits UVA. There is no current proof that the animal requires UVB light, although some keepers prefer to provide UVB.

**Plant and Fish bulbs are not UVB bulbs.**



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