

Emperor Scorpion

Average Size: 3" to 8" long

Life Span: 2—6 years with proper care

Diet and Feeding:

Staple diet: Provide a variety of live feeder insects of appropriate size, such as gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets, small mealworms, and wax worms.

Feeding: Juveniles should be fed every day, and adults should be fed every other day. Dust the insects daily with a pure calcium supplement, and once or twice weekly with a vitamin/mineral supplement. Remove any uneaten live crickets, and as they may attack a resting scorpion.

Water: Always have a shallow dish of chlorine-free water available. If a sponge is used in the dish, it should be replaced often as it can grow harmful bacteria and mold.

Housing/Habitat:

Housing: Your scorpion will require a plastic or glass aquarium, wider than it is tall to accommodate normal behaviors and exercise. Make sure the aquarium has a secure lid with adequate ventilation.

Temperature: Place an under tank heater or a ceramic heat emitter on one end of the habitat to provide a warm side and a cool side. The warm side should be 90° F, and the cool side should be 80° F.

Substrate: Mulch-type commercial material may be used—unbleached paper towels, soil, dampened sphagnum moss, and bark. Avoid gravel and artificial turf (too harsh).

Habitat: Provide hiding areas using non-toxic plants, branches, or logs. Keep hiding areas away from the heat source. Emperor scorpions need a humid habitat and should be misted several times a day to maintain humidity.

Lighting: Scorpions are nocturnal. Direct UV sunlight can be harmful to all scorpions. Provide 8—12 hours of light daily; do not leave white light on at all times. To view scorpions at night, use a black or infrared light.

Normal Behavior and Social Interaction:

Handling scorpions is not recommended.

When it is necessary to handle or move a scorpion, use gloves or forceps. However, if using forceps, be gentle, as scorpions are delicate.

Scorpion stings. All scorpions are venomous and sting. Depending on the species, the sting can be mild (similar to a bee sting) or severe. Although most people are not affected by emperor scorpions, some may be allergic to scorpion venom.

Most scorpions are nocturnal.

Social skills. Emperor scorpions have historically been kept in groups of three or more, as long as they are provided with enough food. However, we suggest keeping them in separate tanks, as some may become territorial and show aggressive tendencies.

Habitat Maintenance:

- Thoroughly clean the tank at least once a week. Set the scorpion aside in a secure place while cleaning. Scrub the tank and its contents with a 3% bleach solution, rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach. Dry the tank and contents and add clean substrate.

- Change water daily.

- Spray-mist the habitat several times a day to maintain humidity.

Health/Cleanliness:

Please remember that all pets may bite or scratch, and may transmit disease to humans. Keep your scorpion's home clean and wash your hands before and after handling him, his habitat and/or habitat contents. Infants, young children, pregnant women, people with compromised immune systems, and the infirm or elderly are at greater risk of infections and should use caution when in contact with the pet or its habitat. Consult your doctor for more information.

The information on this care sheet is NOT a substitute for regular veterinary care.