



Introduction Guide To The Care Of Chilean Rose Tarantula

Scientific Name: Grammostola rosea

Life Span: Chilean Rose Tarantulas have not been in captivity long enough to accurately say how long they live, an educated guess would be 20+ years. Males live significantly shorter lives than females, probably in the region of 3 - 7 years.

Size: Chilean Rose Tarantulas can achieve a leg span of up to about 5 or 6 inches

Appearance: Chilean Rose are predominantly dark brown but have a covering of reddy pink hairs over their entire body. The pink colouring to these hairs is where the name rose comes from. They are a medium sized terrestrial spider.

Temperament and Handling: Chilean Rose Tarantulas are a very docile, calm and mild mannered spider and are therefore a highly recommended first spider. If upset they are likely to rear up with their front legs or spray urticating hairs from their abdomen. Keep your face well away from your Chilean Rose, as urticating hairs to the face would not be at all pleasant. They are unlikely to bite although do have the ability to if pushed. Handling of any tarantula is not without risks, they all have the potential to bite and are all venomous. The strength of the venom is not enough to kill you but is certainly not pleasant. Your Chilean Rose does not need or want to interact with you and will gladly spend all of its time just going about its business undisturbed, it doesn't gain anything from being handled unlike mammals that crave social interaction and contact. That being said, you can, if you wish, handle your spider. Chilean Rose Tarantulas are usually very tolerant of handling but you ignore the warning signs at your own peril. If you handle your Chilean Rose and are scared or nervous it is very likely to end up with injury to either you or your spider... or both of you! To handle your spider and to minimise the risks the best way is to have a paint brush or another soft item available to gently push your Chilean Rose. Now, place your hand palm up so that your spider's head is facing you, if it shows any threatening signs, such as rearing up with its front legs... STOP, the spider clearly does not want to be handled. Next, using the paint brush you need to gently prod the abdomen or rear feet of your spider, you will either see the spider walk forwards, rear up or spray urticating hairs. If your Chilean Rose has now walked onto your hand you should lift your hand slowly out of the enclosure and allow the spider to walk from hand to hand. Keep your movements slow and try not to breathe on the spider, this should help to keep your Chilean Rose calm and not spook it. Until you grow in confidence it would be advisable to keep your hands close to a table or bed so that if you drop it you will lessen any possible damage caused. Weird N Wonderful Ltd will not take any responsibility for injury caused to either you or your Chilean Rose, you handle it at your own risk.



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Housing: Terrarium/ vivarium/ glass or plastic tank are all suitable for a Chilean rose. All that is really needed for this species of spider is a hide and a water bowl. The water bowl needs to be buried so just the rim is above the substrate. They require hides on ground level (buried slightly) and you can use anything at all as a hide really, I would suggest cork bark, coconut halves and plant pots as good and inexpensive hide solutions. Any decoration other than this is up to you, although plastic plants do look nice. Chilean Rose Tarantulas need quite a dry, but not overly sandy substrate so a 70 - 30 mix of peat moss (potting soil works just as well) and sand is ideal. Coco fibre is also available and can replace the potting soil or peat moss, it does make a good substrate although I personally never use it and always go for peat moss. The substrate's depth should be half of the height of the enclosure to allow for burrowing (although they are unlikely to make burrows in captivity) and to make sure that the spider is not hurt if it does decide to climb. With all substrates that you use, always make sure that it is additive and chemical free.

Heating and Lighting: A temperature of between 24-27°C (75 -80°F) should be maintained at all times. This temperature can be achieved by attaching a heat mat to the outside back wall of your Chilean Rose's enclosure. A thermostat is very highly recommended and since a heat mat should provide sufficient heat to keep your Chilean Rose happy, a basic mat stat, like the Microclimate Ministat 100 or the Habistat Mat Stat, should be appropriate. These thermostats are available from reptile shops and online, are relatively cheap, and will ensure the heat source is regulated at a safe level. A thermometer is also recommended. Artificial lighting should be avoided at all costs with this particular species, they do not need or want to be in a well lit enclosure. That being said, a room that is light in the day and dark at night is recommended as long as the spider is not in direct sunlight. High humidity is not needed for this particular species of spider, they will be perfectly happy with a humidity of around 65% -75%, although at no time should the humidity be allowed to drop below about 55%. Just having a water bowl available at all times will go a long way to providing the needed humidity, a very light misting of the substrate (or sphagnum moss if you would like to provide it) every so often is all that is really needed other than that. Do make sure that the substrate is only very slightly damp, not saturated. A digital hygrometer is highly recommended to allow for monitoring of the humidity.

Feeding: A live invertebrate prey item of approximately half of the spider's body length is required. You can choose to feed crickets, locusts, mealworms, or even cockroaches. Wingless fruit flies are also a good option for feeding spiderlings. Approximately 4 or 5 appropriately sized food items should be offered per week, they can be offered all in one go but if they have not been consumed within 24 hours they should be removed and you should try feeding again in a week's time.



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Molting: To grow, your spider grows a new skin below its current exoskeleton, when the spider has grown sufficiently it will need to break out of its old exoskeleton. This is called molting. At this time your spider will show less interest in its food and will appear to be being very lazy. You will also probably see your spider laying on its back, it is VERY important that you do not touch your Chilean Rose when it is laying like this, you also need to remove all uneaten prey items from the enclosure as gently and quietly as you possibly can. The spider will eventually split open its old exoskeleton and wriggle its way out, the spider's nice new exoskeleton will still be very soft and you will more than likely see it just sitting still as it hardens. Only remove the shed exoskeleton when your Chilean Rose is again actively walking around its enclosure or has returned to its hide. You should also not offer any food items to your Chilean Rose for a week as your spider's skin and fangs will still be rather soft so it will not be able to eat.

Please note that this is only an introductory guide based on our opinions and experience, we advise you to continually research and learn as much as possible from as many sources as you can, every animal is different and new care and information is always being developed and found 😊