



## Brazilian Black Tarantula *Grammostola pulchra*

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- The Brazilian black tarantula is a large, dark colored terrestrial spider best known for its solid black coloration, although many may be darker brown as well before adults.
- This species is indigenous to the grasslands of South America (including Brazil, and Uruguay).
- Brazilian blacks are a terrestrial species that tends to be solitary and nocturnal, as with most other tarantulas.
- A docile and hardy species, the Brazilian black is an attractive and docile choice for a pet tarantula for the beginning to intermediate enthusiast.

### **Size**

5-6 inches leg span on average.

### **Housing**

Provide a sturdy, secure, and escape proof terrarium or enclosure 5-15 gallons in size with a secure top for a single adult spider. Spiderlings can be housed in an appropriately sized plastic container or deli cup with adequate holes for ventilation. Acceptable substrate to use can include pesticide free potting soil, Eco-Earth, or bed-a-beast 3-5 inches in depth. Decorations and/or other cage furnishings and hide boxes can also be included as well. A fairly small, shallow water dish can also be provided, and should be cleaned regularly.

Brazilian black tarantulas are a species that do best at room temperature between 75-80 degrees, or with a supplemental under tank heating pad if needed. Maintain at around 75-80% humidity. No additional lighting or heating is necessary.

### **Feeding/Diet**

Most species of tarantulas are very easy and inexpensive to feed, with the Brazilian black being no exception. Feeder crickets, mealworms, feeder roaches, and other feeder insects of appropriate size can be given every 4-7 days for younger spiders, and up to 10-14 days for adults. Feeder insects can also be gut loaded to provide additional beneficial nutrients for your tarantula. Brazilian blacks may also take the occasional f/t pinkie or fuzzie mouse as well. Uneaten food items after one or more days should be carefully monitored or removed thereafter.

### **Handling**

Sometimes referred to as the “black Labradors” of the arachnid world, Brazilian blacks are generally a docile spider that can be handled readily. They are a large, attractive choice for a pet tarantula for the beginning to intermediate arachnid or other pet enthusiast if cost is not an object. As with any tarantula, however, they should be handled carefully and not be dropped while being handled. Tarantulas are fragile animals, and accidentally dropping a spider can result in the rupture of its internal organs and/or exoskeleton, causing death to your tarantula. Although most tarantulas are not medically significant, with most being lesser than or just about equal to a bee sting, medical attention should still be sought from any apparent allergic reaction to a bite, or extreme irritation from urticating hairs from a pet tarantula.

\*\*Also be sure to practice basic cleanliness and hygiene associated with proper husbandry after touching or handling any animals or animal enclosures to prevent the possibility of contracting salmonellosis or any other zoonotic pathogens\*\*