# Chilean Rose Tarantula *Grammostola rosea*

- Chilean rose tarantulas, also known as the Chilean Rose haired tarantula, are a fairly large tarantula that can be variable in color, ranging from dark brownish to grayish. This species earns its name from its reddish to pinkish colored hairs.
- Native to Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina of South America.
- Chilean rose haired tarantulas are a burrowing to terrestrial species that tends to be solitary and nocturnal, as with most other tarantulas.
- A docile and hardy species, the Chilean Rose haired tarantula is perhaps the most widely kept and sold species of tarantula.

**Size**

4-5 ½ inches leg span on average.

**Housing**

Provide a sturdy, secure, and escape proof terrarium or enclosure 5-10 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 1-3 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.

Chilean rose haired tarantulas are a hardy species that do best at room temperature between 70-80 degrees, or with a supplemental under tank heating pad if needed. No additional lighting or heating is necessary.

**Feeding/Diet**

Most species of tarantulas are very easy and inexpensive to feed, with the Chilean rose haired tarantula 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. Uneaten food items after one or more days should be carefully monitored or removed thereafter.

**Handling**

Chilean rose haired tarantulas are typically a docile and slow moving species that can be handled carefully so as to avoid injuring the spider. Tarantulas are fragile animals, and accidently dropping a spider can result in the rupture of its internal organs and/or exoskeleton, causing death to your tarantula. A Chilean rose haired tarantula may also kick urticating hairs from its abdomen and hind legs or "rear up" to display its fangs and front legs when upset or agitated. 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**