



*Pinktoe Tarantulas *Avicularia avicularia**

- Pinktoe tarantulas are a relatively small to medium sized, slender bodied species varying in color from dark bluish, grayish, black, or pinkish red with characteristic pinkish toe tips.
- Ranges from Costa Rica to Brazil in South America.
- Pink toed tarantulas are an arboreal species of tarantula, and are primarily solitary and nocturnal.
- A commonly available and easily maintained species, the pinktoe tarantula has long been a popular and widely available choice among pet owners and enthusiasts.

Size

4 ½-5 inches leg span on average.

Housing

Provide a sturdy, secure, and escape proof terrarium or enclosure 5-10 gallons tall 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 can also be included as well, although height is more important the floor space. This is an arboreal species that benefits from branches and plants for refuge. A fairly small, shallow water dish can also be provided, and should be cleaned regularly.

Pinktoe tarantulas are a species that do best at room temperature between 70-85 degrees, or with a supplemental under tank heating pad if needed. Maintain at 78-82% humidity. No additional lighting or heating is necessary.

Feeding/Diet

Most species of tarantulas are very easy and inexpensive to feed, with the pinktoe 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

Pinktoes are typically unaggressive species that can be handled carefully so as to avoid injuring the spider. However, they can be a skittish and fast moving species. 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. Pinktoes may raise their 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