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Wolf Spiders *(Family Lycosidae)*

Miniature Hunters

Wolf spiders are medium sized to large true spiders belonging to a large and diverse group of spiders consisting of over 100 recognized and described genera, and over 2,300 species generally found in most areas worldwide, from temperate, arid, to tropical or sub-tropical areas. Most wolf spiders are solitary and agile hunters with excellent eye-sight, and well-developed eyes, and are typically either ambush predators or active hunters which will pursue their prey over short distances without the use of a web. Many wolf spiders are also well known for carrying their egg sacs and young on their abdomens, and may use silk for navigation lines, to line their burrows or retreats, and in courtship and reproduction. Most wolf spiders tend to be terrestrial to burrowing generalists and long distance wanderers, although some species may be more specialized in their lifestyles and habits. Wolf spiders are a popular intermediate to more advanced alternative to similar terrestrial or burrowing tarantulas that can be hardy and easy to maintain in captivity.

Taxonomy

Life: All living, physical, and animate entities
Domain: Eukaryota
Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Subphylum: Chelicerata
Class: Arachnida
Order: Araneae
Infraorder: Araneomorphae
Family: Lycosidae
**Taxonomy subject to change and revision.*

Lifespan and Longevity

Longevity of most species of true spiders can be variable depending on the species, sex, and reproductive status, with females typically attaining slightly longer longevity than males. Wolf spiders may live for as few as only a few months to a little over a year or two. Females of some species can live for up to 5 years.

Distribution and Habitat

Depending upon the exact species, wolf spiders can be found in a variety of habitats throughout most of the world. They may be found in coastal or inland habitats including arid to semi-arid

deserts, scrublands, open fields and prairies, coastal or barrier beaches, mountaine regions, temperate to tropical or sub-tropical forests, and in and around residential, urban and suburban, and agricultural areas. Some species have more specialized microhabitats in which they may occur in as well.

Conservation Status
Conservation status dependent upon the species. Some species are IUCN Least Concern (LC). Some are IUCN Near Threatened (NT), Conservation Dependent (CD), Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN), to Critically Endangered (CE). Some Not Evaluated for the IUCN Red List (NE) or otherwise Data Deficient (DD).

Legal and Regulatory Status (*Subject to Change)
Adelocosa anops Endangered Species Act of 1973 listed species (HI). Also consult with your local, municipal, and state ordinances and regulations for any ownership restrictions.

Experience Level Required
Intermediate/Moderate to Advanced.

Size
Most wolf spiders are relatively mid-sized to large true spiders, which can vary in size depending on the species, sex, and reproductive status. They may range from 0.4 to 3 ¼ or 4 inches in size.

Housing and Enclosure
Wolf spiders are quite simple and hardy to house and provide enclosures for. These spiders can be housed in an appropriately sized spiderling vial, plastic container or deli cup to a secure and well ventilated 2 to 10 gallon terrarium or enclosure with adequate holes for ventilation. Several of the acrylic displays and enclosures that are now manufactured for housing arachnids, insects, and other invertebrates can also be used. Acceptable substrate to use can include pesticide free potting soil, coconut fiber, vermiculite, or similar substrates 3 to 4 inches in depth. Decorations and/or other cage furnishings can also be included as well, although floor space is more important than height. These spiders will also benefit from branches, horizontal cork bark, and plants for refuge. A fairly small, shallow water dish can also be provided, and should be cleaned regularly as well as regular misting for hydration, but care should be taken to not over-mist.

Temperature, Lighting, and Humidity
Most species of wolf spiders have simple and undemanding heating and lighting requirements in captivity, and do not require additional UVA/UVB lighting, although providing it can be greatly beneficial for your spider's health, immune system, and overall wellness. Most wolf spiders are hardy species that do best at room temperature between 70 to 85 degrees. Maintain at 75 to 80% humidity. For any supplemental heating that may be needed, use a low wattage incandescent or UVA/UVB bulb, radiant or ceramic heat emitter, or UTH (under tank heating element). Do not keep them at temperature extremes however. More specific lighting, heating, and humidity product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

Feeding, Diet, and Nutrition
Insectivorous to Carnivorous; In the wild, wolf spiders are primarily insectivorous, meaning they eat insects and other invertebrates. In captivity, these spiders can be fed a variety of appropriately sized feeder insects such as crickets, roaches, moths, fruit flies, other flies, and other small feeder insect items. Feeder insects should be gut-loaded in order to increase their

optimal nutritional value. This will promote optimal exoskeleton growth and development. Any uneaten food items should be cleaned and removed after a day or two. Their feeding frequency will depend on the age, size, and overall health of your animal. Use care as to not overfeed even invertebrates, as obesity and other health related issues can still become an issue with them. More specific dietary and supplementary product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

Handling

Although not overly aggressive or defensive, most wolf spiders tend to be skittish and fast moving species, with the potential to inflict a painful or unpleasant bite or becoming lost when handled. Handling these spiders is therefore not recommended. All true spiders are also venomous, and although most may be harmless and not medically significant, the possibility of a severe allergic reaction or heightened sensitive reaction still exists. Thus, these spiders are perhaps best suited for viewing, rather than handling.
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

Contact

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