



How-To

Terrestrial Habitat

Scott's Tarantulas



Terrestrial Burrow Supplies

Introduction

This How-To will take you through the steps involved in assembling a simple and safe habitat for terrestrial and opportunistic burrowing species. These components used have been carefully selected to provide the best environment for your pet. This method has worked successfully with over 150 different species.

Supply List

1. Critter Keeper (Medium to Large)
2. Burrow (Large Deli Cup 6" to 8" Tall)
3. Water Dish (Small Deli Cup)
4. Peat Moss (1 to 2 lbs.)



Preparation

- Inspect for damage. If any of the items are cracked or broken, be sure to replace it prior to beginning. If anything is damaged, it could harm your pet.
- Clean the cage carefully. Be sure to not use any harsh chemicals, as this could harm your pet and damage the cage. Wash with warm soapy water, and dry with a clean soft towel.
- Make sure the burrow and water dish are also clean.
- We strongly recommend removing the handle from the top of the cage. If this handle is used to carry the cage, it could come off and the cage might be dropped, disturbing or harming your pet.

1. Add Peat Moss

Place the peat moss in a mound at one end of the cage (Figure 1). This will allow you to put the burrow into the bottom of the cage without the peat moss getting in the way. Peat moss works great as a substrate in the cage because it packs down well and allows your tarantula to burrow in it if they so desire. It is light enough that if a cave-in does occur; the tarantula could dig out.



Figure 1 – Peat Moss in Critter Keeper

NOTE: Make sure to not use peat moss that has pesticides added. Read the label carefully.

2. Insert Burrow

Insert the burrow, a large deli cup, into the cage. When you do this, be sure to scoop some of the peat moss into the cup as you insert it (Figure 2). This will create a flat floor in the bottom of the burrow. Leave a small amount of peat moss under the burrow, and leave some space behind the burrow.



Figure 2 – Insert Burrow



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3. Cover Burrow

Cover the burrow with the peat moss (Figure 3). Be sure to backfill all around the burrow (Figure 4). This style of burrow gives your tarantula a safe hiding place where you can still see it. Pack the peat moss down around the burrow to secure it. Be sure not to crush the burrow when packing down the peat moss.



Figure 3 – Burrow Covered - Front



Figure 4 – Burrow Covered - Back

4. Insert Water Dish

Insert the water dish above the burrow as shown (Figure 5). Be sure to pack some peat moss around the dish in order to secure it. The dish needs to be level & stable so the tarantula can not tip the dish over.



Figure 5 – Insert Water Dish

5. Finishing Up

In finishing up you need to add water to the dish. You will also need to spray some water onto the peat moss before putting your tarantula into the cage. Place your tarantula in its new home (Figure 6). It is usually best to leave your pet alone for a while after putting it in a new home so they can get used to it and be comfortable.



Figure 6 – *Brachypelma Emilia*



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Maintenance

This new habitat for your tarantula should provide all the space necessary for a healthy existence. This new habitat will be easy to maintain. You should remove any foreign matter and leftovers from the cage when you feed your tarantula. You should regularly inspect the health of your pet and the safety of its environment. If anything is out of the ordinary please ask for help from a qualified individual. About every 6 to 9 months you should completely clean out the cage. This includes adding new peat moss, and replacing the water dish and burrow.

About Scott's Tarantulas

Scott's Tarantulas is dedicated to research, education, and growth in the arachnid hobby. Our website provides only the best information and products available. Please come and visit our website to see all the great things we have for the casual and avid hobbyist.

www.scottstarantulas.com

Habitat Kits

For your convenience we have put together kits like the one featured in this How-To. These kits save you time and money because you do not have to run around and buy the components in bulk.

Habitat Refills

If it's time to change your cage or you already have a cage we also provide habitat refill kits. These kits have fresh peat moss, a new water dish, and a new burrow.

Tarantulas

If you are looking for a new pet tarantula please visit our website. The tarantulas we provide are the best quality available. All of our tarantulas are captive bred and raised to ensure good health and proper care has been provided.

Books

We strongly recommend that every person who has a pet tarantula should own a copy of the Tarantula Keepers Guide. This is an indispensable resource for you in your care of your pet. Visit our website to see all the arachnid-related books we recommend.