

# Pink Toe Tarantula



## ***Avicularia avicularia***

The generally slow moving and docile pink toe tarantula has a native range that covers a large portion of South America, but is usually collected in Guyana. Typically considered a beginner tarantula, the tree dwelling pink toe can reach a size of around 5 inches and females have a lifespan exceeding 10 years (males have a much shorter lifespan).

## **Housing**

### **Size**

The size of your pink toe's enclosure will depend on the size of your tarantula. If you're keeping a sling, you'll want to use something like a vial or a deli cup. If you're keeping an adult, a large plastic enclosure or a 5-10 gallon fish tank would be appropriate housing. Whether you're keeping a baby or an adult, the enclosure should provide plenty of height for your arboreal pink toe. Adequate ventilation is important for this species, and lack thereof can prove fatal. Decorations like cork bark, fake plants, and other climbing materials are must.

### **Substrate**

A 2-3 inch layer of moisture retaining substrate should line bottom of your tarantula's enclosure. Some readily available substrate choices include coconut husk, fir & sphagnum peat moss, and potting soil. Your pink toe will like it humid, so combining moist substrate with proper ventilation should keep your tarantula healthy and prevent mold growth.

### **Lighting**

UVB lighting is not essential, but a fluorescent bulb may be used for day time viewing and to provide a day-night cycle for your tarantula. If you choose to use one, your daytime bulb should be on for 8-10 hours.

### **Water**

Tarantulas with at least a 3 inch leg span may drink from a shallow water dish. If you provide a water bowl, it needs to be kept clean and filled with fresh water. Having a shallow water dish in your enclosure can help to keep humidity up.



## Some products to look for

- Lee's Kritter Keeper
- Zoo Med Eco Earth
- Zilla Jungle Mix
- Exo Terra Heat Wave Under Tank Heater
- Penn-Plax EZ Clean Oasis Dish with Plant
- Zoo Med Natural Cork Round
- A&E Reptile Java Wood Hide
- Exo Terra Mini Mister Hand Sprayer
- Exo Terra Tree Fern Background



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## Temperature

Pink toes come from warmer climates, so their enclosure may require some heating to keep them comfortable. If you need to heat your tarantula's enclosure, care must be taken when deciding on a heating device. Overhead heat bulbs may have more of a desiccating effect than other heating options, but an infrared heat bulb can provide a method of night time viewing. Take care not to let a heat bulb create too dry of an environment. Other options include under tank heaters, heat tape, and heat cables. Whatever your decision, attention must be paid to ensure your enclosure does not become too hot. The ideal range is between 74°F and 85°F.

## Humidity

Pink toes like it humid; somewhere between 75% and 82% would be best. This can be achieved by keeping the substrate moist, regular misting, and keeping a shallow water dish in the enclosure. Keep an eye out for mold growth that may result from keeping the humidity high as mold growth is a leading cause of death for pink toes.

## Diet

### Insects

Pink toes will do fine on a diet of crickets. Four to six of the appropriate sized crickets should be offered no more often than once a week (once every two weeks would be sufficient). Crickets should be gut loaded prior to feeding. Other insect choices include roaches, meal worms, and super worms.

### Other food choices

Other optional prey items for your tarantula include wax worms, hornworms, and pinkie mice. None of these choices should be a staple part of your pink toes' diet, but are fine choices for the occasional treat.



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