

HOW TO



keep

LAND HERMIT

CRABS



The land hermit crab (*coenobita clypeatus*) originates from the Western Atlantic and are common throughout the Caribbean. They can grow up to 10cm and have a life span of approximately 2 years.

Hermit crabs can be kept alone or will quite happily mix with others of the same species. Being nocturnal, they are more lively at night than during the day. Only handle your crab when necessary for cleaning etc. Provide a few spare shells for your crab to grow into. They will discard their old shell in favour of one with a better fit. Never attempt to

help a crab out of its shell as they will only grip on tighter and you may harm it by pulling.

DIET:-

Crabs are basically scavengers and will eat almost anything that is available. Commercial foods are beneficial as they contain essential vitamins and minerals as well as a wide range of ingredients. Turtle/Crab food is ideal. They will also enjoy fruit and vegetables as



a tasty treat.

Hermit crabs drink by dipping their claws into water, then lifting drops to their gills and mouth. A shallow dish filled daily with fresh water is ideal.

HOUSING:-

A small, covered, glass aquarium is an ideal home for a land hermit crab. Make sure they don't get cold by providing a heat mat the length of the tank. A humid but dry environment is essential and this can be achieved by providing a small dish of water with a sponge in it so they don't drown. They do not need to go into the water at all. A beach setting with aquarium sand is the perfect habitat. We stock a wide selection of ornaments, sand, gravel and plants to create an attractive and interesting home. Hermit crabs love to climb, so be sure to provide some climbing materials for them to play on.



Hermit crabs have been heard making croaking sounds. It is still being studied to try to ascertain whether this is a means of communication or what the croaking might mean.