

BIRD EATING SPIDER

(*Selenocosmia crassipes*)

Bird Eating Spiders are some of the biggest spiders in Australia, typically found in the northern parts of the country, where they thrive in hot, humid conditions. Part of the Tarantula family, Bird Eating Spiders are much more vicious than American tarantulas. With fangs up to 10mm long, the largest of the species can grow up to a body length of 60mm and a leg span of 160mm. Large and aggressive, these spiders are wonderful to look at, but are not to be handled or cuddled.

ENCLOSURE

Your Bird Eating Spider will need a secure glass enclosure of at least 40-50cm depth. Ideally, your enclosure will have a secure mesh lid, providing escape proof security and allowing for good ventilation. Your Spider can not only scale glass walls but is also strong enough to push a loose lid off his enclosure. Painting [Fluon](#) on the inside of your terrarium can help keep your spider from climbing the walls. Security is essential! Your Spider naturally loves to burrow, so providing a minimum 10cm of substrate, such as peat-soil, is essential. A large piece of bark, cave or a hollow log will also be enjoyed by your spider.

The enclosure will need to be kept out of direct sunlight at all times. Direct sunlight and heat can be fatal to your spider. Your spider will instinctively hide away from natural light, but if you wish to observe him during the day, red observation lights can be added to the enclosure.



ABOUT PETWAVE

PetWave is an Australian online pet supply company that is expert in shipping delicate, live and frozen products to you and your pet's door.

We know that your time is valuable & you want access to reliable, premium products at perfect prices. We are able to satisfy your needs through our premium online offer. We are very proud to offer the highest quality and largest selection of live fish, aquarium plants and driftwood creations, a wide range of live food such as insects, frozen pet food especially for snakes, lizards, amphibians and birds of prey and many rare, creative and beautiful decorations for your aquarium and terrarium.



PetWave
PREMIUM PRODUCTS - PERFECT PRICES



BIRD EATING SPIDER CARE SHEET

Visit us at

www.petwave.com.au

For enquiries, please contact
customercare@petwave.com.au



PetWave
PREMIUM PRODUCTS - PERFECT PRICES

TEMPERATURE

Bird Eating Spiders are used to warm, humid conditions, and ideally their resting temperature within their enclosure should be between 20-25°C. Heat pads, lights and rocks can be added to your enclosure to help you achieve this temperature range. If you provide a heat pad or mat, make sure it only covers roughly $\frac{1}{3}$ of your enclosure base. This will allow your spider to move in and out of the warm area as he feels comfortable.

A thermostat should be used and checked regularly in your enclosure to ensure your Bird Eating Spider is not at risk of overheating.

Your spider needs to stay humid but not wet. Misting your spider daily with a gentle mister will help him stay at a comfortable humidity. You can also add a sponge, soaked with fresh water, to your enclosure, which will help you maintain humidity without introducing too much condensation.

FOOD

Your adult Bird Eating Spider will need to be fed once or twice per week. He should be fed on a variety of [live prey](#), including live crickets, mealworms, black soldier fly larvae, silkworms and even the occasional [pinkie mouse](#) as a treat. It is advised not to feed your spider insects from the garden, as they may have come into contact with dangerous and unknown insecticides. During moulting, your spider will not need to be fed. As he won't be able to eat, putting live insects in his enclosure can cause him harm in this vulnerable state. Once he has completed moulting, you can resume his normal feeding schedule.

MOULTING

Unlike us, your Bird Eating Spider has his skeleton on the outside (exoskeleton) and his muscles on the inside. He will grow by crawling out of his old skeleton.

Your spider will roll onto his back immediately prior to moulting and slowly climb out of his old skeleton. His new exterior will be soft and large. While the moulting process is happening, it is crucial that you leave your spider alone for at least a week - this includes not feeding him.

You may feel worried that your spider is ill, however it's important to note that this is normal moulting behavior and that interfering with your spider during this time could fatally stress him. While he may appear to be dead, unless he is lying on his belly with his legs curled up underneath him, he is moulting and should just be left to recover.



ACCESSORIES

In addition to heating and substrate requirements, your enclosure should have a shallow water dish. Take care to choose an appropriately shallow dish as anything too deep may pose a drowning risk.

Hollow logs and reptile ornaments such as caves provide decoration and hiding places for your spider, who may be quite shy and reclusive (particularly during the day).

If you wish to observe your spider, even during daylight hours, you can set up red lights in your enclosure, which your spider will not shy away from. This allows you to set up an observation tank, allowing you to enjoy your new pet from a safe distance.

HANDLING

Your Bird Eating Spider is not a typical pet. He is a private, nocturnal and often aggressive companion who should only be admired from afar and never handled. He can deliver a nasty bite, and while there are no recorded fatalities from their bite, swelling, pain and vomiting can occur.

Additionally, the venom from a bite can be deadly to cats and dogs.

It is important to keep your Bird Eating Spider secure, away from other pets, and not to handle him directly.

Spiders are a fascinating, exotic pet that are interesting to watch and offer a unique way to see their behaviors up close. They are also a relatively low maintenance, clean and quiet pet.