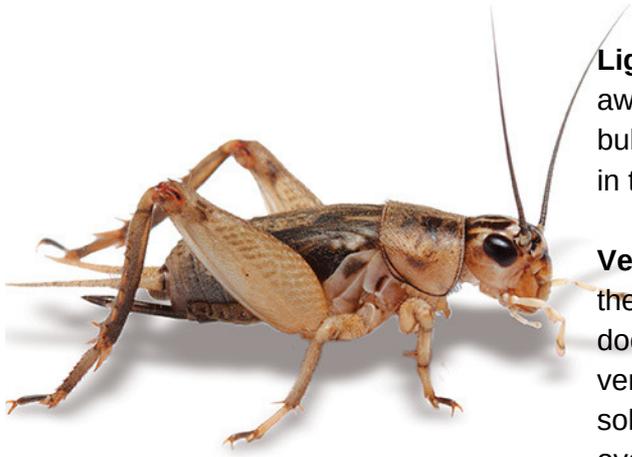


# LIVE INSECTS ARRIVAL GUIDE

## Why Feed Live Insects To Your Pet?

Live insects are critical in meeting the nutritional needs for many pet lizards, frogs, birds and chook's by providing protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals. They also offer additional health benefits by stimulating natural feeding behaviours. Live feeder insects provide a balanced diet for your pet's optimum health.

## How Do I Store Live Insects?



**Light:** Once your live insects have arrived, you should store them away from direct sunlight in a darker area. If you have received a bulk order, for most insects you should carefully transfer the insect into an escape proof storage tub (Youtube link).

**Ventilation:** Be sure your storage tub has sufficient ventilation for the live insects to ensure no condensation build up. If condensation does start to build up, correct the problem immediately with more ventilation as high humidity is a threat to your insects. An ideal solution, is to cut a hole in the tub lid and place flyscreen netting over the hole.

**Toxins:** It is critical that you store live insects where they aren't exposed to any toxic fumes including insecticides, cleaning products, shampoos, flea products, smoke, etc. These are extremely dangerous to all live insects. Be sure to wash any produce thoroughly before feeding in case of any residual insecticides.

**Moisture:** A live insect's moisture needs will often be supplied through their diet such as carrots, lettuce, potatoes, etc. If you are able to provide these fresh, high-moisture foods daily, you do not need to provide additional water sources. If more moisture is required, a regularly saturated sponge or [Aquaload](#) insect quencher are the best options. For all insects, it's important to not leave a dish of water in the tub as most insects can and will hop in and drown.

## What Do I Do When My Live Insects Arrive?

### Live Feeder Crickets

Crickets – Quick Guide	
Temperature	25-28°C
Moisture/Humidity	No condensation
Feeding	Daily

Your [delivery of crickets](#) will need to be stored in a large container with ventilation - they do require a lot of air, so covering your storage tub with a secure screen or mesh is recommended. An absorbent substrate, or even some cardboard, should be used to layer the bottom of the container.

You should provide food such as carrots and cos lettuce daily and even mashed up dry dog food.

Room temperature is best for crickets, 25 to 28°C and no condensation build up.



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# Live Feeder Mealworms and Superworms

Mealworms and Superworms – Quick Guide	
Temperature	Refrigerated or room temperature
Moisture/Humidity	Moisture to be provided through food sources
Feeding	2-3 weeks if refrigerated, daily if kept at room temperature

[Mealworms](#) can be stored a couple of different ways. To keep them in a dormant state, store the mealworms in your fridge. This halts their eating, growing and morphing. You should bring them out of the fridge for 24 hours every 2-3 weeks and provide them something to maintain moisture such as apple or carrots.

After 24 hours, remove any leftover food before placing them back in the fridge. If you keep mealworms at room temperature, they will need to be fed. They will also grow into beetles. If you choose to keep mealworms this way, it is ideal to keep them in a storage tub full of unprocessed bran or similar. Mealworms kept at room temperature will typically only last a week.

Mealworms also love carrots!



## Live Feeder Giant Mealworms | Morio Worms | Tropical Worms

Giant Mealworms – Quick Guide	
Temperature	20-25°C. <b>Never</b> refrigerate.
Moisture/Humidity	Moisture to be provided through food sources
Feeding	Daily

Unlike regular mealworms, [Giant Mealworms](#) are a tropical species and should never be refrigerated. Any significant time spent under 15°C will kill them.

Your Giant Mealworms should be kept in a plastic container with a 3cm layer of dry, unprocessed bran or oatmeal, kept at room temperature (between 20-25°C). Each day, you will need to feed them fresh carrot or other fruit and veg as a water source.

Kept together in these conditions, you can expect between 2 and 10 weeks from the Giant Mealworms. They can be fed, with care, to your larger reptile pets, such as an adult bearded dragon. They may be too large for smaller pets. While they are a safe food for your pet, ideally you should only serve 2-3 per pet at each feeding session.

If you plan to keep your Giant Mealworms for a longer time, replenish their bran or oatmeal and feed them fresh carrots or apples daily.



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## Live Feeder Woodies

Woodies – Quick Guide	
Temperature	20-25°C.
Moisture/Humidity	Moisture to be provided through food sources
Feeding	Daily



[Woodies](#) are a little trickier than many other live insects as they are known escape artists! To prevent their escape, you will need to paint lubricant around the top inner rim of the holding container. You can use a dry lubricant or vaseline, painted along the rim to prevent woodies from being able to grip the surface and escape. Depending on how long you keep the woodies, if you choose vaseline, reapplication will be required as frequently as every two months.

In addition to preventing their escape, you should provide them a large (50L minimum) storage tub and provide hiding places. These can be as simple as cardboard rolls or empty cartons. See YouTube video. A good quality, high protein dry dog or rodent food is suitable for feeding your woodies and should be available to them at all times. Each day you will need to offer high density and moisture fresh fruit and vegetables such as carrots.

Keep your woodies at room temperature (between 20-25°C), as higher temperatures speed up their growth and results in a shortened life expectancy.

## Live Feeder Black Soldier Fly Larvae | Calciworms | Vitaworms | Phoenix Worms | BSFL

BSFL – Quick Guide	
Temperature	20-25°C.
Moisture/Humidity	Relative humidity of ~70%.
Feeding	Not required.

These [larvae](#) are low maintenance and very easy to care for. The larvae does not need to be fed to be kept alive, however if your larvae are white (which means they are young), you can offer them a soft fruit such as banana to encourage their growth. Ideally, the larvae should be used within two to three weeks. Within this timeframe, they can simply be stored in a container with a sealed lid at room temperature (between 20-25°C). Ideally, the container should have a slightly moist substrate bran, to keep the relative humidity at about 70%. BSFL are amazing climbers so it is best to use the same lubricant precautions as woodies above. For extended storage, BSFL need to be kept in a cool place of around 12°C and prior to feeding to your pets, placed at room temperature for 10 minutes. Your black soldier fly larvae should never be kept in a normal refrigerator.

Before offering black soldier fly larvae to your pets, you can rinse them with warm water to maximise their movement and remove any foreign material.



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## Live Feeder Fly Pupae

Live Feeder Fly Pupae – Quick Guide	
<b>Temperature</b>	Refrigerator or room temperature
<b>Moisture/Humidity</b>	Not required
<b>Feeding</b>	Not required

[Fly Pupae](#) will grow into flies within 4-5 days after purchase. They can be stored in the refrigerator for up to two weeks, which will halt their growth, or frozen for up to six months (which will mean that they won't hatch into flies). Kept at room temperature, the pupae will emerge into flies within 4-5 days.

They will not need to be fed.

If storing frozen fly pupae, remember to defrost them before feeding to your pet.



## Live Feeder Earthworms

Earthworms – Quick Guide	
<b>Temperature</b>	15°C.
<b>Moisture/Humidity</b>	Slightly moist bedding
<b>Feeding</b>	Vegetables and kitchen scraps

Once your [earthworms](#) arrive, you should transfer them to a breathable container in a cool area - around 15°C is ideal for them. The container should have adequate bedding - for earthworms, this means a moist material, such as peat moss, which you can spray lightly with chlorine-free water if it is too dry. A good test is to squeeze the peat moss. If only a drop or two of moisture drops out, the moss is an ideal moisture. If it is too wet, allow more air flow and fresh air.

Once your worms have arrived and been transferred comfortably to their new container, you can feed them. Something as simple as kitchen vegetables and fruit scraps is great for fattening your earthworms up!

If your earthworms appear unsettled, a little manure (such as horse or cow), can improve their mood and help them settle in more easily.

With the right temperature and conditions, your earthworms can be successfully kept for a long period of time.

Prior to feeding them to your pets, put the container in a brightly lit area – but never direct sunlight. The earthworms will move to the centre of the container, trying to escape the light, which will make them easier to locate for feeding to your pet.



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# Live Silkworms

Silkworms – Quick Guide	
Temperature	Room temperature
Moisture/Humidity	No condensation
Feeding	Daily



On arrival, you should transfer your [Silkworms](#) to a large plastic container, with small ventilation holes in the lid. Be sure to keep an eye on them to ensure condensation doesn't build up, if it does remove the lid until the moisture dries out. Allowing your container to become and stay too moist can harm your silkworms and should be avoided at all times.

Your silkworms should experience 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness per day, giving them a day/night cycle. They should never be exposed to direct sunlight.

Silkworms will need to be fed daily, with either mulberry leaves or a specially designed artificial diet. Please note that studies have found silkworms using the artificial diet are far less nutritious than those that are raised on mulberry leaves. They will receive all their required moisture from the mulberry leaves. You should provide a small amount of food each day, carefully distributed evenly throughout the container. Prior to feeding each day, ensure any old food is either removed or dried out before adding more food.

If well cared for, your silkworms can grow to 7cm in just one month!

You should be very careful when handling silkworms, and only do so when necessary. They are very fragile and bruise very easily. Always wash your hands before touching them or their food. Tweezers are advised instead of bare hands if you must handle or move your silkworms.

At a minimum you should remove and clean the Silkworm container every second day.

## ABOUT PETWAVE

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