


# HERMIT CRAB PETS CARE GUIDE



THE SIX ELEMENTS OF HERMIT CRAB CARE  
TO CREATE A HEALTHY, HAPPY HABITAT  
FOR YOUR HERMIT CRAB PETS!

➤ Plus!  Creative habitat ideas!

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Creative Services Shop

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HERMIT CRAB *pets.com*



# HERMIT CRAB PETS CARE GUIDE

GOT HERMIT CRABS?  
CONGRATULATIONS!

These quirky, curious little creatures are quite possibly the world's most perfect pet! This basic care guide covers the six basic elements needed to keep your pets healthy and happy. We've also got some creative habitat ideas and tips for everyone. For expanded information, tips, ideas and more photos...  
*we've got it all at [hermitcrabpets.com](http://hermitcrabpets.com)!*



## SIX ELEMENTS OF HERMIT CRAB CARE

- Food and nutrition
- Water (fresh and sea)
- Shells
- Crabitat (hermit crab habitat)
- Behavior
- Types of Hermit Crabs

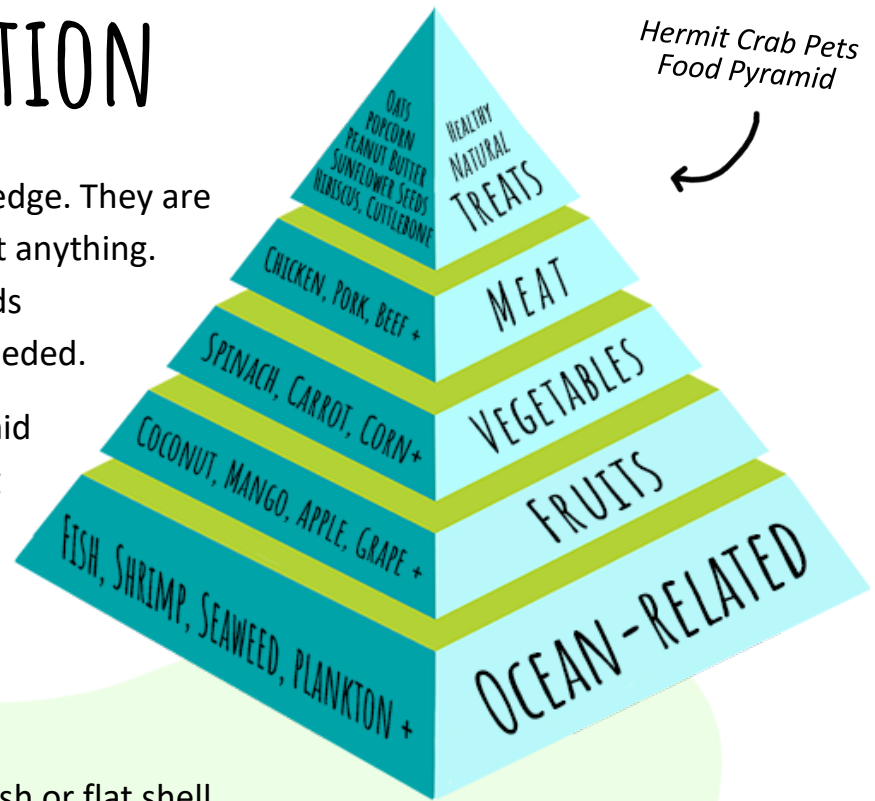




# FOOD AND NUTRITION

Hermit crabs are born at the oceans-edge. They are scavengers. They eat (or will try) most anything. Provide a wide variety of healthy foods making sure they get the nutrients needed.

Use the Hermit Crab Pets Food Pyramid and tips below to plan a good feeding system.



Hermit Crab Pets Food Pyramid

## Tips:

- Feed once daily, in a designated dish or flat shell
- Provide a wide variety of foods using the Hermit Crab Pets Food Pyramid
- Don't rely on store-bought hermit crab pellets and mass-produced foods
- Find great nutritious foods made by fellow hermit crab pet owners on Etsy!
- Share tiny morsels of the fresh healthy foods you eat

← no seasonings or sauces!

## ARE YOU A HEALTHY EATER?

When cooking/preparing your people foods, save tiny portions before adding seasonings/sauces. Share your healthy foods with your hermit crabs! Hermit crabs love sharing your scrambled eggs and ham, they love your salads and fruits! Share a piece of your fish, shrimp, sushi, chicken! If you eat a balanced healthy diet... your hermit crabs can benefit greatly!

## CALCIUM!

HERMIT CRABS NEED IT.  
AN EASY SOURCE: HERMIT  
CRAB MINERAL BLOCKS  
AND CUTTLEBONE  
EASILY FOUND AT YOUR  
LOCAL PET STORE!





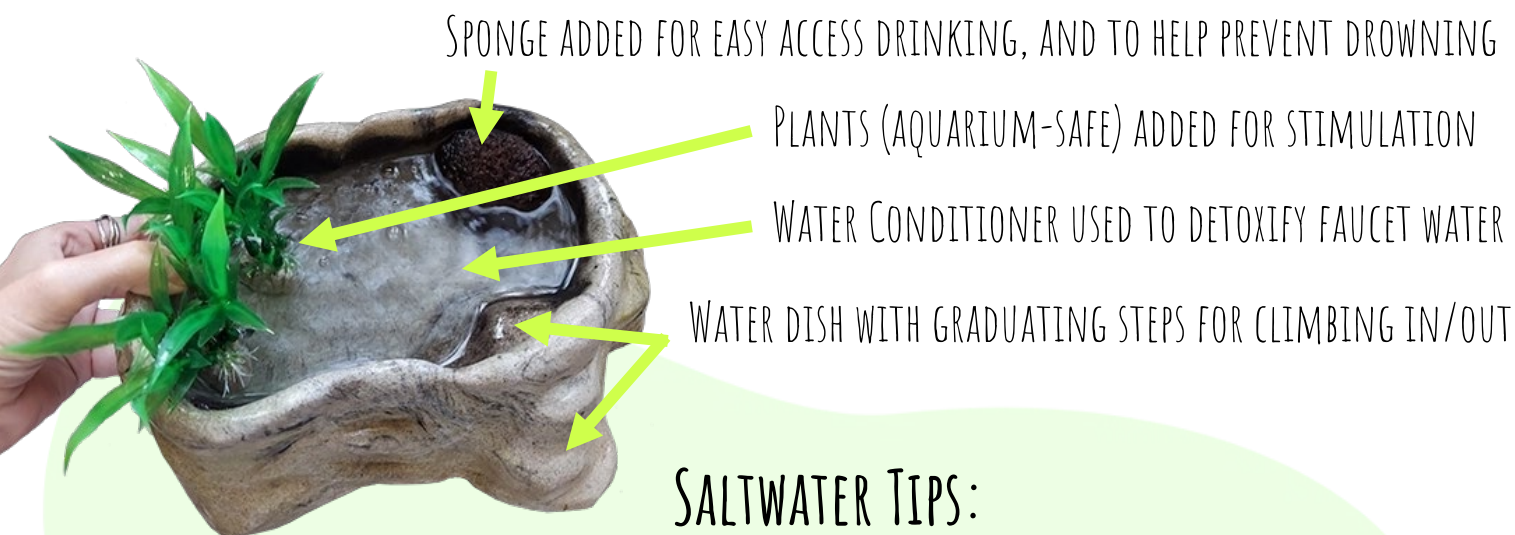


# WATER

Hermit crabs need access to fresh, clean water at all times. They need water to drink, and also to occasionally submerge themselves. Place a medium to large size dish for freshwater. Place a second water dish (can be smaller if space is limited) for saltwater. *Do NOT use metal dishes in your crabitat for water OR food... ceramic, resin are best.*

## FRESH WATER TIPS:

- Provide a water dish deep enough for your largest hermit crab to submerge
- Use a water dish with gradual steps or safe way to climb in and out
- Hermit crabs can drown, so make sure your littlest hermies can get in/out safely
- Natural sponges set inside a water dish can provide an easy way to drink
- Use a water Conditioner to remove toxic chemicals (Flukers, Zoo Med, Prime etc)



## SALTWATER TIPS:

- Use Fluker's Soaking Salt for Hermit Crabs, Instant Ocean, Red Sea or similar saltwater mix (*don't use regular kitchen salt!*)
- Saltwater bowl can be smaller than freshwater bowl if space is limited, but should be deep enough for hermit crabs to submerge
- Know the type(s) of hermit crabs you have, they have different saltwater requirements (*Purple Pinchers are easiest to care for!*)



# SHELLS

A crucial part of a hermit crab life cycle involves molting. They burrow for a period of days or weeks, shed their exoskeleton and emerge bigger *and usually much perkier!*

Extra shells are necessary for hermit crabs to change into as they grow. The extras are also important as a choice and are a source of needed stimulation. Some shells make it easier for them to climb and maneuver around tight spots in.

## Shell Tips:

- Turbo shells are a top choice for most hermit crabs
- Provide a *minimum* of 2-3 extra shells per hermit crab
- Extra shells should be available at all times inside the crabitat

Hermit crab shells come in all shapes and sizes. Not all shells are suitable for hermit crabs. Generally, most hermit crabs prefer shells with an opening that's circular or a wide oval, with a medium weight.

Find good hermit crab shells on Etsy, beach gift shops, local pet stores, and online websites specializing in hermit crab and pet supplies. It's also possible to find good shells that wash up on beaches. However, if it's an area where hermit crabs live, it's a better idea to leave those shells for them. Sometimes, depending on the area, it can be challenging for hermit crabs to find appropriate shells in the wild.

## Popular varieties for Hermit Crabs:

- Turbo
- Conch
- Florida Lightning Whelk
- Babylon
- Frog



# CRABITAT

HERMIT CRAB  
HABITAT!

A Crabitat brings elements of a natural hermit crab habitat indoors, creating a more healthy, happy environment for your pets. Crabitats can be created in all shapes and sizes. There are tons of fantastic things you can find outdoors and in your local pet store that will give your hermie the climbing, hiding and active fun and stimulation they love (and need)!

Crabitats can be made from a...

- tank, aquarium (*minimum recommended size: 10 gallon*)
  - terrarium/vivarium (*ie ReptiZoo glass terrarium habitat*)
  - wood, wire cage
  - converted glass display cases or pieces of furniture!
- [see our Ikea Detolf and Milsbo Hacks at [hermitcrabpets.com](http://hermitcrabpets.com)]



## 8 Essential elements of a healthy Crabitat:

- 2 water dishes (freshwater and saltwater)
- 1 food dish
- Extra shells
- Substrate (4-6" deep sand, coco fiber) for burrowing
- Hiding spots (coco huts, caves, coconut hideaways)
- Climbing elements (driftwood, cholla, rope ladders)
- Thermometer and humidity gauge

FRED!  
(HE'S 17 YEARS OLD)

Zoo Med's  
Hermit Crab  
Thermometer  
and Humidity Gauge



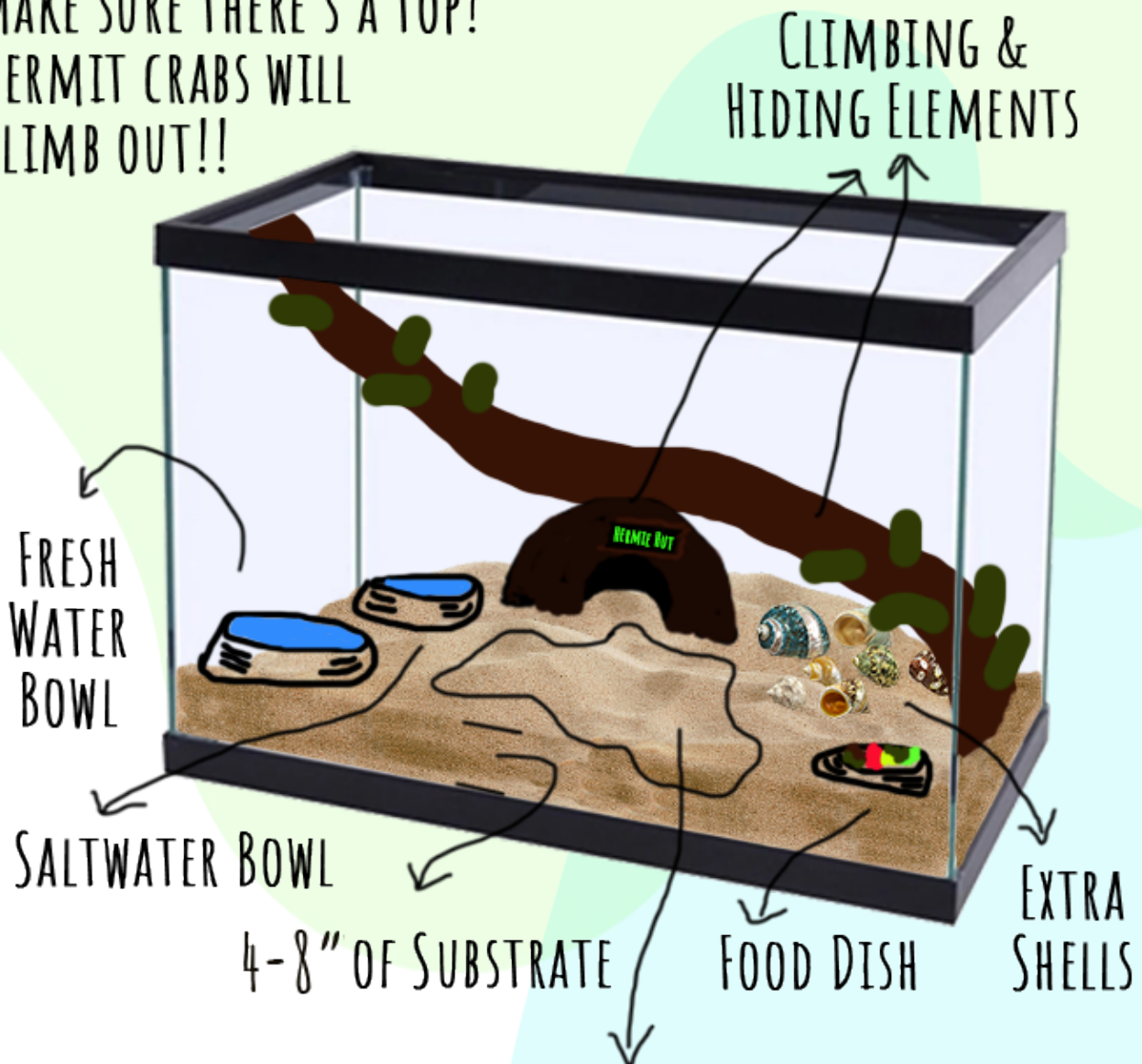
Ideal crabitat temperatures range from 76 to 84 degrees, with a humidity level of at least 70% (*think "South Florida" weather*). Hermit crabs need warmth, with some humidity in the air for them to breathe. If needed, add a reptile heat lamp or similar solution to keep create a "tropical" climate.





# CRABITAT DIAGRAM OF BASIC NECESSITIES:

MAKE SURE THERE'S A TOP!  
HERMIT CRABS WILL  
CLIMB OUT!!



SPACE FOR EACH HERMIT CRAB TO BURROW AND MOLT!

# BEHAVIOR



Land hermit crabs have behaviors that, when understood, will help you provide even greater care and ensure better health and happiness in your crabitat.

## SOME COMMON HERMIT CRAB BEHAVIORS TO WATCH FOR:

- **Hermit crabs are nocturnal**

*Don't worry if they aren't active during the day, they love nighttime!*

- **Hermit crabs disappear**

*They love to burrow and will disappear when molting, hiding, staying warm or cooling.*

- **Bullying can happen**

*Though rare, bullying and fighting can occur when not providing enough extra shells or with overcrowding. Watch for aggressive behaviors and injuries.*

- **Watch for leg injuries**

*Hermit crabs can lose legs, which is an indication of injury, a bad molt, health issues or due to fighting and the need for quick action and changes in the crabitat.*

- **Drowning can happen**

Land hermit crabs cannot breathe underwater, so make sure your smallest hermit crabs can easily and safely climb in and out of water dishes.

- **Hermit Crabs are SOCIAL creatures**

They like to be with other hermit crabs and prefer to be in groups, but this requires space, or some bullying and fighting can occur. Hermit crabs CAN get lonely, so it's good to have at least two.

- **Hermit Crabs can get bored**

Give them plenty of stimulation and they'll be healthier and happier! Climbing branches, coconut hideaways, rope ladders and extra shells help provide stimulation.



# TYPES OF HERMIT CRAB PETS

There are many types of land hermit crabs, but only a few are widely available in the pet industry.

The **Caribbean Hermit Crab**, also known as the **Purple Pincher** (also “tree crab”) is the most popular and easiest to care for. These fun, social little creatures can make great pets. And when raised in a healthy crabitat, these hermit crabs can live longer than your dog (often more than 20 years)!



Other types of land hermit crabs that can be found within the pet industry:

- Ecuadorian
- Ruggies
- Strawberry
- Blueberry
- Australian
- Indonesian
- Passionfruit



PURPLE PINCHERS ARE THE MOST RESILIENT AND EASIEST TO CARE FOR, BUT THERE ARE OTHER TYPES OF HERMIT CRAB PETS, SO DO YOUR RESEARCH!

It's important to know what type of hermit crab pets you have, as each comes with slightly different needs and care requirements. Knowing the species and original habitat of your hermit crabs will help you provide the best foods, climate, saltwater and other crabitat elements to meet their needs *as well as how large they'll grow!*

STRAWBERRY HERMIT CRAB  
(COENABITA PERLATUS)



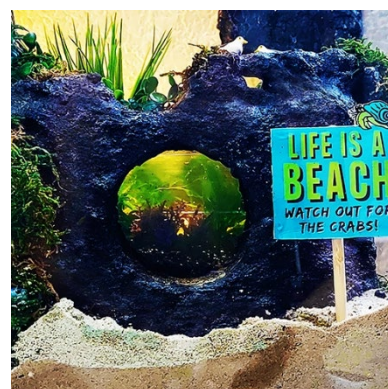
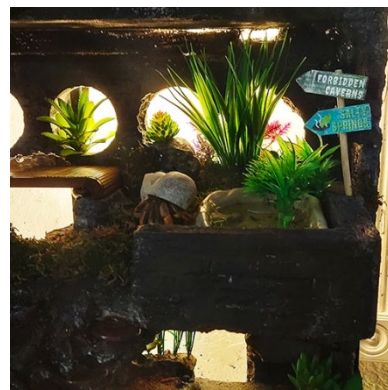
FOUND ON SHORELINES AROUND AUSTRALIA, JAPAN AND  
OTHER INDO-PACIFIC COUNTRIES



# Plus! Creative habitat ideas!

Hermit crabs CRAVE stimulation! They are naturally very curious and love climbing and exploring. Here are some ways to add stimulation to your hermit crab habitat for extra hermie happiness:

- replace extra shells with a *completely new group* of extra shells
- place aquarium-safe fake plants in their water bowls or pools
- put in a new piece of driftwood or tree branch for climbing
- add a hanging coconut hideaway and rope ladder to climb UP
- mist the enclosure (with distilled or detoxified water)
- convert the enclosure into a terrarium or habitat hack
- add more lighting (backlighting, spotlight, water features)
- add some DIY fake rock mountains, caves, cliffs



SEE MORE AT: [HERMITCRABPETS.COM/IKEA-HERMIT-CRAB-HABITAT-HACK](http://HERMITCRABPETS.COM/IKEA-HERMIT-CRAB-HABITAT-HACK)

 **HERMIT CRAB** *pets.com*



**SECRET!**

WANNA HEAR A SECRET?



HERMIT CRAB PET OWNERS  
ARE SOME OF THE NICEST PEOPLE ON THE PLANET!

THEY ARE ALSO PASSIONATE ABOUT KEEPING HERMIT CRABS HEALTHY AND HAPPY.

IF YOU EVER HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR HERMIT CRAB PETS,  
OR WANT TO SHARE YOUR FUNNY HERMIT CRAB PET PHOTOS, VIDEOS OR STORIES...

HERE ARE SOME GREAT RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT:

[HTTPS://WWW.REDDIT.COM/R/HERMITCRABS](https://www.reddit.com/r/hermitcrabs)

[HTTPS://WWW.HERMITCRABASSOCIATION.COM](https://www.hermitcrabassociation.com)

LET'S BE FRIENDS!



JOIN OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!  
GET TIPS, CRABITAT IDEAS AND  
PRODUCT REVIEWS!



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