

Emperor Scorpion

Pandinus imperator



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Scorpions consist of both forest and desert species. The emperor scorpion is a forest variety. Be sure that you are familiar with your scorpion's natural habitat. A scorpion's sting can vary from mild to severe, depending upon species.



Is a scorpion the right companion animal for you?

| Yes | No |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

- I have limited space for a companion animal.
- I can feed and clean up after a scorpion daily.
- I want a pet that doesn't need to be cuddled or touched.
- I can commit to providing proper care for a scorpion.
- I feel comfortable feeding live food to a scorpion.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

If you answered "Yes" to these statements, an emperor scorpion may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for an emperor scorpion and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

Average Size 3 to 8 inches long

Life Span 2 to 6 years with proper care

Diet Provide a variety of live insects, such as gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets, small mealworms, waxworms

Feeding Feed juveniles every day; feed adults every other day
Dust the insects daily with a pure calcium supplement and once or twice weekly with a vitamin/mineral supplement. Remove any uneaten live crickets as they may attack a resting scorpion

Housing Size – Appropriate size habitat for an adult scorpion to accommodate normal behaviors and exercise, wider than it is tall, with a secure lid

Substrate – Mulch-type commercial material; soil, dampened sphagnum moss, and bark; avoid gravel and artificial turf (too harsh for skin)

Habitat – Provide hiding areas using non-toxic plants, branches, or logs; keep hiding areas away from the heat source; emperor scorpions need a humid habitat and should be misted several times a day to maintain high humidity

Temperature – Put an undertank heater or a ceramic heat emitter on one end of the habitat so there is a warm side and a cool side; temperature gradient is needed (90° F. for the warm end and 80° F. for the cool end)

Lighting – Scorpions are nocturnal and have no special lighting needs; direct UV light can be harmful to all scorpions; they need a photo period light cycle; provide 8–12 hours of light daily; do not leave white light on at all times; to view scorpions at night, use a black or infrared light

Water – Always have a shallow dish of chlorine-free water available; if a sponge is used in the dish it must be replaced often as it can grow harmful bacteria and mold.

Do not house different species of reptiles together

Recommended Supplies

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate size habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Branches and logs for hiding | <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity gauge | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water and food dishes | <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infrared or black light | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin/mineral supplement | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about scorpions | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate heater | |

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Normal Behavior and Interaction All scorpions are venomous and sting; depending on the species, the sting can be mild (similar to a bee sting) to severe; although most people are not affected by emperor scorpions some humans may be allergic to scorpion venom

Use gloves or forceps when handling or moving a scorpion; if using forceps be gentle, as scorpions are delicate; handling scorpions is not recommended

Most scorpions are nocturnal

Emperor scorpions have traditionally been kept in groups of three or more, as long as they are provided with enough food; but it is suggested to keep them in separate tanks, as some may become territorial and show aggressive tendencies

Habitat Maintenance Change water daily

Mist habitats several times a day to maintain high humidity

Thoroughly clean the tank at least once a week: set scorpion aside in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach; dry the tank and furnishings; and add clean substrate

Grooming and Hygiene Always wash your hands before and after touching your scorpion or habitat contents to help prevent infectious diseases

- Signs of a Healthy Animal**
- Eats regularly
 - Active and alert
 - Body and tail are rounded and full
 - Healthy exoskeleton

Common Health Issues

| Health Issue (alpha) | Symptoms or Causes | Suggested Action |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Dehydration | Lethargic, poor shedding, shriveled appearance | Consult your exotic animal veterinarian. |

- Red Flags**
- Swollen limbs
 - Weight loss
 - Dull exoskeleton
 - Lethargic
 - Abnormal feces
 - Bumps, sores, or abrasions
 - Discharge in mouth or eyes

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.

Sources *Scorpions: Everything About Purchase, Care, Feeding, and Housing (Complete Pet Owner's Manual)* by Manny Rubio

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.