

# Spiders

## A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

### Immediate Care and Handling

Check your shipment as soon as it arrives. Transfer the spiders to holding containers; small jars with lids work well. Dehydration can kill small spiders; moisten cotton and add it to each container, using dechlorinated water. (See General Guidelines for information on conditioning tap water.) Place one spider in each container. Long-term maintenance requires a suitable habitat.

### Habitat Setup and Maintenance

Keep wolf and cellar spiders in 1- to 5-gallon tanks, depending on their size. Orb weavers need a habitat of at least 60 cm W x 60 cm L (24 x 24"). Cover the bottom of the tank with several centimeters of moist potting soil or woodland soil mix. Wood chips or animal beddings can harm spiders. Add a rock or a few sticks for variety. Spiders may eat each other; set up one spider per habitat. Check the cover to be certain your spider cannot escape.

Feed flying insects to orb weavers and non-flying prey to wolf spiders; offer prey that is no larger than the spider's body size. Cellar spiders need small prey. Good live foods include *Drosophila*, crickets, houseflies, blowflies, wax moth larvae, and roaches. Feed 2 to 3 times weekly. To water, offer wet cotton or bits of wet sponge on a lid.

In habitats, spiders most often die from dehydration; always provide water. Mist daily, or at minimum 2 to 3 times weekly, with room-temperature dechlorinated water. Wolf and orb-weaver spiders like room temperatures, while cellar spiders prefer slightly cooler temperatures. Keep spiders in a dark location.

### FAQ's

#### *How large are spiders?*

Body length of the cellar and orb weavers is generally 1 cm or less, with a leg span of 2 cm or more. Wolf spiders range from 1 to 2 cm in body length with a leg span of 8 cm.

#### *Is it safe to handle these spiders?*

Although these spiders are not considered dangerous, a reaction to the spiders' venom could occur. Wolf spiders are skittish and may run up arms or in clothing.

#### *How long will my spider live?*

In captivity, female spiders can live 1 to 3 years. Males seldom live a year.

#### *Do I have a male or female spider?*

This is difficult to determine. Females are usually larger.

#### *My cellar spider vibrates from side-to-side so rapidly it becomes a blur. What is wrong?*

This is considered a defensive response. The rapid movement makes it hard for a predator to see the spider. Give the spider time to adjust to its new home.

#### *My wolf spider caught a cricket and flipped over on its back. Is it OK?*

Wolf spiders often do this when they capture an insect with strong legs. It allows the spider to hold the kicking legs away to prevent injury.

*Will my orb weaver spin a web?*

It should if it has sufficient space. Orb weavers usually spin their web at night and may take it down at dawn.

**Problems?** We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

**Orders and replacements:** 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

**Technical Support and Questions:** [caresheets@carolina.com](mailto:caresheets@carolina.com)



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