

Case Specific: Tarantulas

Purpose: Enhance teaching/learning with engaging science materials and live animals

Goal: Safety for all who handle ESC20 Living Science materials

General Safety:

ALWAYS WASH HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER BEFORE AND AFTER HANDLING ANY ANIMAL OR INSECTS.

Process:

1. Handling:

Resources: Gloves

Note: Latex gloves can cause allergic reactions in some individuals

- It is best to wear gloves when handling tarantula
- Tarantulas may be handled by gently sliding your open hand under the front of the tarantula.
- No yelling or screaming
- Do not poke at tarantula
- Be sure that you are handling the T. close to the ground, or over a table/desk. A great fall can become fatal to the T. causing the abdomen to rupture and eventually die.
- No sudden jerks
- They can walk from one hand to another or be placed on a flat surface (desk, table) for closer observation

2. Caring:

ESC20 Living Science tarantulas are provided with their own habitat which is cleaned upon their arrival back to ESC20 Living Science Center so no bedding from you is necessary

- Fresh, clean water
- Proper food (crickets but not wild caught...wild caught may have been exposed to pesticides and can become harmful to the T. if it decides to eat it.)

Disposal:

Resources: Gloves, plastic bag, dumpster

- 3.** If pet dies, wrap bedding and dead tarantula tightly in a plastic bag and dispose in dumpster.
Return empty container to ESC20 Living Science Center

4. Bites or Allergic Reaction:

Bites: If a tarantula feel threatened they can throw hairs from their backside which can irritate skin or they may bite. The bite is equivalent to a mild honey bee- sting. **Wash affected area with soap and water, apply antibiotic cream.** However, some individuals may have a minor to severe **allergic Reaction and may need to consult the school nurse**

- **Consult school nurse, fill out appropriate report and email copy to ESC 20 Living Science (livingscience@esc20.net)**

5. Hygiene:

Resources Needed: Gloves, Soap, Water

Use gloves for handling. Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling animals or insects.