# creepy crawly | care guide |

## MADAGASCAR HISSING COCKROACH

- Hissing cockroaches are large, wingless, live-bearing cockroaches that are one of the best starter insect pets.
- Adults can grow to be 1 ½ to 3 inches.
- A hissing sound is made when they feel threatened; this sound is made when they quickly move air through special valves in the segments of their abdomen.
- The hissing cockroach has an average lifespan of 2 to 3 years, but some can live to be upwards of 5 years old.

**Diet**
The Madagascar Hissing Cockroach will eat a variety of vegetation as well as some different kinds of prepackaged pet foods. Most enjoy small amounts of dry cat or dog food, hermit crab or lobster foods, and even some fish flakes. They will also happily devour romaine lettuce, carrots, apples, spinach, broccoli and other kinds of fresh fruits and vegetables. Keep fresh foods and water available in the cage at all times.

**COCKROACH CHECKLIST**

- ☐ Tank
- ☐ Screen Top
- ☐ Shallow Water Dish
- ☐ Décor/Hiding Area
- ☐ Vitamin/Mineral Supplement
- ☐ Heat Source
- ☐ Soil/Substrate
- ☐ Thermometer
- ☐ Small Transport Carrier
- ☐ Cockroach Book

**Housing**
Hissing cockroaches will live communally; a 2 ½ to 5 gallon tank will suffice depending on the amount of cockroaches you'd like to keep. Five or more cockroaches should be housed in a ten gallon, or larger, tank.

Soil, moss, bark or peat are all good choices as a substrate. Whatever you choose, make sure it's fairly deep, 3-6 inches, so your cockroaches may burrow.

Day temperatures for your terrarium should be between 85 and 95 degrees. These are a tropical roach and need to be kept very warm, tank temperatures should never drop below 68 degrees. Other than a heat lamp to provide proper heat, no special lighting is required.

**Handling & Care**

Madagascar hissing cockroaches produce live young, they can breed for 2 to 3 years after reaching maturity. If you wish not to breed your roaches keep the tank in the upper 70s to low 80s as low temperatures will stop the breeding cycle. If you do wish to breed them be sure to provide gel water so the babies do not accidentally drown. Babies will reach adult size within five months.

Water dishes should be cleaned and any uneaten fruits and vegetables need to be taken out daily. At least twice a month all bedding should be thrown away, the cage wiped clean, and replaced with fresh new substrate.

Wash your hands with anti-bacterial soap after handling any animal.