



## CARE SHEET © Pails for Scales

### THE DESERT SCORPION

#### HANDLING

It's always better not to handle them at all, but if necessary, lift by the base of the tail with plastic or padded tweezers, taking care not to damage the animal. Some people pinch either side of the sting to lift then take the weight of the scorpion from underneath. **They will sting and nip!**

#### HOUSING

Desert scorpions are the most aggressive of all Australian scorpions and must be housed separately. A small glass or Perspex container is ideal. Use desert or coral sand as a base and provide a rock or wood cave for shelter. Add a small dish full of wet cotton wool so that they can absorb the moisture without drowning. This will also keep the enclosure humid. Only a small gap for ventilation is necessary and an occasional mist of water on hot days will be ideal. Remember that they are desert dwellers and don't need over watering.

#### FEEDING

Crickets, cockroaches and mealworms (live) are ideal meals and should be provided at least every two weeks. Avoid overfeeding and make sure you control the diet.

#### INTERESTING FACTS

Desert scorpions come from inland WA deserts.

They live for 3-4 years

If you are stung, the affected area may swell, so apply ice or an anaesthetic cream. It's similar to a bee sting.

Reproduction occurs when the male drops a packet of sperm and the female collects it. Young are born live and fully formed. Mother scorpions care for their young and will guard them.

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