

Hissing Cockroach Care Sheet

Introduction

Hissing cockroaches are fascinating pets! They are big, friendly, and make a cool hissing sound. Here's how to take care of your new friend.

Basic Facts

- **Scientific Name:** *Gromphadorhina portentosa*
- **Origin:** Madagascar
- **Lifespan:** 5 to 7 years
- **Size:** About 3 to 4 inches long

Habitat

Creating a comfortable home for your cockroach is important!

1. Choosing a Habitat:

- **Enclosure:** Use a terrarium or a glass aquarium with a lid. A 10-gallon tank is a good size.
- **Ventilation:** Make sure there are holes for air, but not too big that your cockroach can escape.

2. Bedding:

- Use coconut fiber, peat moss, or shredded paper as bedding. It should be about 2-3 inches deep.
- Keep the bedding moist, but not soggy. This helps with humidity.

3. Temperature and Humidity:

- Hissing cockroaches like warm places. Keep their home between 75°F and 85°F (24°C to 29°C).
- They enjoy humidity, so mist the enclosure lightly with water a few times a week.

Diet

Feeding your cockroach is easy!

1. Foods to Offer:

- Fresh fruits (like apples and bananas) and vegetables (like carrots and lettuce).
- You can also give them dog food, cat food, or fish flakes for protein.
- Always wash fruits and veggies to remove pesticides.

2. Water:

- Instead of a water bowl, use a damp sponge or small piece of fruit to provide water. This prevents drowning.

Handling Your Cockroach

Hissing cockroaches are gentle and can be held!

1. How to Hold:

- Wash your hands before and after handling.
- Scoop your cockroach up gently. Hold it with both hands and be careful not to squeeze.

2. How They Communicate:

- Hissing cockroaches hiss by forcing air out of tiny holes in their abdomen. It's their way of saying, "I'm not scared!" or "I'm happy!"

Cleaning the Habitat

Keeping the enclosure clean is very important!

1. Spot Cleaning:

- Remove leftover food and waste every few days to keep the habitat tidy.

2. Full Cleaning:

- Once a month, change the bedding and clean the enclosure with warm, soapy water. Rinse it well and let it dry before adding new bedding.

Health and Behavior

Watch your cockroach to make sure it stays healthy.

1. Signs of a Healthy Cockroach:

- Active and moving around
- Eating and drinking regularly
- Hissing when picked up or handled

2. Signs of Illness:

- Staying in one spot for a long time
- Not eating or drinking
- Unusual behavior (like being very quiet or hiding a lot)

Fun Facts

- Hissing cockroaches can live for a long time—up to 7 years!
- They are not insects; they belong to a group called "blattodea," which also includes termites.
- In some cultures, they are considered a delicacy!

Why Choose a Hissing Cockroach?

- They are low-maintenance pets that don't require a lot of space.
- They are very friendly and make great pets for kids.
- They help teach responsibility and care for living creatures.

Conclusion

Taking care of a hissing cockroach can be a fun and rewarding experience. Just remember to provide a good home, feed them healthy foods, and keep their habitat clean. With a little love and attention, your hissing cockroach will thrive and be a wonderful pet for years to come! Enjoy your new friend!