Slithering Serpents

Small Animal and Reptile

**Sanctuary**

**How To Raise Spiderlings**

Spiders, particularly tarantulas, are becoming a popular pet. If you can get by their somewhat frightening appearance, spiders actually make good pets. To be a good owner, you will need to learn how to raise Spiderlings. It is recommended to start with young spiders rather than adult ones. Raising Spiderlings is the first step to take when owning a spider. Read on to learn more.

**Instructions.**

1. Place the spiderling immediately into a suitable habitat. This would be a plastic container with a secure lid. Filled with damp soil, (never use sand or that newspaper crap) a plastic twig or branch and a water dish (a shallow bottle cap is ideal). Damp soil will keep the environment humid, which is what tarantulas prefer. However, too much moisture can result in parasites and even death, so be careful.
2. Have water available to the spiderling at all times. As an alternative to a dish, water can be sprayed on the interior sides of the tank.
3. Feed the spiderlings crickets 2 to 4 times per week. Start with tiny crickets (smaller than the spiderling) and work up to larger ones as the spiderling grows. They can also be fed mealworms and grasshoppers. Although they have a hard time catching grasshoppers and mealworm tend to bury themselves.
4. Keep the temperature of the habitat between 75 and 85 degrees and the humidity between 50 and 80 per cent. An under tank heating pad placed on the side or back of the tank will work best. This allows the spiderling to self-regulate its temperature.
5. Separate individual spiderlings as most tarantulas do not live well in a colonised setting. Unless from the sociable ornamental species.

Spiderlings moult more often than adult tarantulas. Be aware of when spiderlings are moulting.

Remove any uneaten food within 12-24 hours.

Do not use lights to heat the tank as this can dry out the interior of the tank, causing harm to the spiderlings.