

Halloween Crab

Scientific Name: *Gecarcinus Quadratus*

Brief Description:

Halloween crabs are nicknamed so because of their brilliant colors — they have a tar-black carapace, blood-orange legs and purple claws, with a pair of yellow spots behind the eyes. They are land crabs in little technicolor dreamcoats.



Average Size: This is a fairly small hermit crab, attaining a maximum size of around 5cm/2" not including the shell, which it occupies to afford itself protection from predators.

Average Life Span: The Halloween crab can live for up to 10 years

Feeding: Feed daily: commercial crab food and any combination of produce such as chopped collard/mustard greens, chard, tropical fruit, tomatoes, carrot, corn, zucchini, apples, bananas, strawberries, peaches, or melon. Dust food with calcium powder twice weekly.

Housing: Provide a single crab with a ten gallon aquarium. These crabs enjoy living in a group and a fifteen gallon aquarium will house 3-4 crabs comfortably. Be careful not to overcrowd them as these crabs can become very aggressive toward one another. Substrate: They do like to burrow.

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Maintenance:

Deep sand (6 inches) allows crab to molt smoothly. Light nocturnal/crepuscular Ambient light or incandescent/LED lighting for viewing, 10-12 hours daily. Humidity tropical, 70-90% Use a fogger or mist crabs with distilled water 2 times daily. Keep substrate moist.



Lighting:

Lighting - Since this is a nocturnal species, it requires only one light bulb. This is the heat lamp which also emits UVA. There is no current proof that the animal requires UVB light, although some keepers prefer to provide UVB.

Water:

Halloween Crabs always need access to water to keep their gills moist.

Breeding:

As with many similar invertebrates, the Halloween crab is not a species you'll be able to breed in the aquarium. We haven't found any successful breeding reports, in any case! If you keep multiple, they may mate and the female can produce thousands of eggs, which she keeps with her in her shell until they hatch.