

Millipede

Scientific Name: Diplopoda

Brief Description:



Millipedes are from a group of arthropods that are characterized by having two pairs of joined legs on most body segments. The name millipede derived from this feature and means "thousand-legger", which is what they appear to be. Millipedes actually have only two-to-three hundred legs and four eyes. They are very gentle and easy to handle, sleep during the day and come out in the evening to eat.

Average Size: Millipedes have a variety of body shapes and sizes ranging from 0.08 inches to 35 centimeters.

Average Life Span: Can live up to seven years with proper care.

Feeding:

- Most Millipedes will eat fruit, mushrooms, vegetables, moistened fish food, moistened dry cat food, rooting wood and rotting leaves.
- Some of Millipede species will only eat specific food such as rotting woods.
- Place food on top of substrate for feeding.
- Remove uneaten food before it starts to mold or rot.
- Millipedes like to drink water, so provide a small shallow dish with a few pebbles to avoid drowning.

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Housing:



- Enclosure needs to be big enough, escape proof and safe for your pet.
- Enclosure size depends on the number of Millipede's you want to keep.
 - o General rule of thumb is that enclosure should be three times the size of the biggest Millipede, in all directions.
- Enclosure height is important as Millipedes can stretch and climb, quite well.
- You will need to provide a good substrate and nice, moist hiding places.
 - o You can use potting earth or soil, approximately fifteen centimeters thick.
 - o Hiding places can consist of tree bark, half a coconut, grotto-like stones and old wood.
- Millipedes love moss to live on and hide under.
 - o They will frequently eat the moss.
 - o Moss provides a nice green color and hiding places.

Temperatures:

Most large Millipedes purchased from a pet store are from a tropical environment. As a result, they will require higher temperature and humidity level than other arthropods kept as pets. Your pet Millipede will require adequate moisture, which means you must use a proper substrate and mist the terrarium on a regular basis. Below you will find some additional suggestions:

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- Seventy-two °F to seventy-eight °F is ideal for your pet Millipede.
- Supplement heating in the form of a low wattage heat mat.
- Be sure not to dry out your pet's habitat too quickly.
- Keep in mind that the substrate is essentially LIFE for your pet Millipede.



Lighting:

Millipedes are nocturnal creatures, which means that they sleep during the day and are active at night. As a result, you find some needed tips, below:

- Keep enclosure away from direct sunlight or other intense sources of light
- Use are red or blue colored bulb to observe the nightly activity of your millipedes.
- Using a timer is helpful. Set it to turn on when the sun goes down and turn off when the sun comes up.
- Some millipedes will glow under a black light.

Notes and Comments:

We don't suggest the Millipede as a pet for young children, as they are toxic. Never allow a child to handle this pet, unsupervised. As long as they are not consumed and hands washed after handling them, you'll be pretty safe.

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