

Seaside Jumping Spiders General Care Guide



Jumping spiders – particular peacock spiders like *Maratus albus*, Pebble mimicking *Saitis*, *Jotus*, *Saratus* – that can be found on beaches around Adelaide, where they mimic sand grains and pebbles – needs fine beach sand, or finely crushed shells to survive. *Saitis* are very closely related to the peacock spider genera *Maratus*, *Jotus*, and *Saratus* and *Saitis* males also display by waving legs like peacock spiders, however they do not raise and/or wiggle the abdomen

Most of these jumpers create silk sacks that they roll in the sand to create a sort of sand bubble, where they spend most of their time sleeping – usually only emerging early mornings and late afternoons to hunt for food (with the exception of *Maratus albus* who is active most of the day)

All these species do not grow very big – most of them between 4-6mm). They have been observed eating tiny black ants - about the size of a pinhead. They do well when fed pinheads and flightless fruit flies.

Enclosure

Seaside Jumpers are always found in the sand, or on the ground-growing plants. They like to be close to the ground and does not particularly enjoy climbing to higher ground (not that there are many trees at the beach lol).

For this reason, an enclosure that has more horizontal space than vertical would be ideal. Our custom Mini Bug Box kits are perfect for their needs. It comes with sand, fake plants, bark hide, scoria water bowl – all fitting perfectly into the 20cm x 12cm x 12cm enclosure.

Food

A cricket no bigger than the length of the spider's body is ideal. Flightless fruit flies can also be fed. Ideally at least one cricket a day, or alternatively dropping 3 crickets in the enclosure every 3 days.

Water

These spiders prefer drier conditions and will get everything they need from their prey if you provide a small water dish with scoria inside (or pebbles). You'll want to do this to ensure neither the spider or it's prey drowns. You can lightly mist the enclosure once or twice a week, but make sure you **do not wet the sand**.

Temperature

These jumpers are used to all weather conditions, so there is no need for special temperature control.

Humidity

These spiders do better in drier conditions, so keeping the humidity as low as possible is best. Ensure no mold grows anywhere!

Lifespan

Peacock spiders do not live long – especially the males. Females live longer than males, but even their life span is usually on average about 12-24 months. If you have bought one of our adult male spiders, be warned that we do not know their true age. Your spider will not live as long as other spiders.

When To Worry

When looking for signs that your spider may not be doing well, the first sign would be that he is lethargic, or simply spending a lot of time sitting on the bottom of the enclosure on the substrate. If he is not interested in any prey around him and does not actively move, it may be that he is approaching the end of his life. Removing the prey at this stage is best – you can always try the next day again.

When your jumper does not eat for days – it can be that they are simply not hungry, preparing to molt if you bought a juvenile/sub-adult, or they may be reaching the end of their life span.

When you can't find your jumper anywhere, it could be that he is in his sand bubble having a good sleep-in, or he has died and the crickets roaming around in the enclosure has consumed his body, or he has escaped! Please, under no circumstances disturb him in his sand bubble – he could be mid-molt, or you could accidentally injure or kill him when poking around. (We have observed some jumpers go into their sacks and only emerge again in 4 months!) If you have bought a female, she could be preparing to lay eggs and will stay in the sack until the babies have hatched.

When jumpers die you will almost always find them laying on the bottom of the enclosure.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via Facebook Messenger, or send us an email at info@bugfrenzy.com.au



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