



## ***Jumping Spider Care Guide***

Jumping spiders are small, curious, and surprisingly entertaining pets. Thanks to their large eyes and active hunting style, many keepers describe them as “8-legged cats”. They pounce on prey, groom themselves, and often watch their human caretakers with interest.

This guide covers everything you need to know about caring for common Australian jumping spiders in captivity. Whether you're a complete beginner or already have a few, you'll find practical advice here.

### ***Getting Started – Shopping List***

Before bringing your jumping spider home, gather these basics:

- A suitable enclosure with good ventilation
- Appropriate substrate, artificial or live plants, and climbing decorations

- Food: flightless fruit flies, pinhead or XS crickets, and/or house fly pupae
- Fine misting spray bottle
- Thermometer and hygrometer (optional but recommended)
- Small LED light if your room is dim

## ***Choosing the Right Enclosure***

Good housing is one of the most important parts of jumping spider care.

### ***Key Rules***

- Never keep more than one jumping spider in the same enclosure — they are cannibalistic.
- Most species prefer taller enclosures (arboreal setup), while some ground-dwelling species like peacocks for example, do better in horizontal setups (terrestrial).
- The enclosure must have **\*\*cross-ventilation\*\*** — holes on at least two opposite sides at different heights.
- Side-opening doors are best, as they disturb the spider's webbing less.

### ***Recommended Enclosures***

- Very young spiders: Bug Frenzy Sling Box enclosure
- Juveniles and adults: 10×15 cm up to 20×30 cm (bigger is usually better)

Check out the Little Bug Box, The Original Bug Box or the Bug Box 2.0

These enclosures also come with the option of a kit included, which consists of cocopeat or sand substrate, a fake plant and a beautiful piece of bark.



DIY enclosures using clear plastic containers also work well if properly ventilated.

### ***Setting up your enclosure:***

**Substrate:** Use coco peat or peat moss for most species. Some beach-dwelling species prefer fine sand.

**Decorations:** Add plenty of clutter! Include artificial plants, cork bark, sticks, and other safe climbing surfaces. More options for exploration make for a happier spider.

**Bioactive Option:** Many keepers prefer bio active setups and add springtails as a clean-up crew to help break down waste and reduce cleaning frequency. Bug Frenzy often offer hands on classes on how to create a bio-active enclosure, so contact them to find out when the next class is.

Misting: Lightly mist one or two walls every few days with a fine spray. Avoid big droplets that could drown your spider. No water bowl is needed.

## ***Feeding Your Jumping Spider***

Jumping spiders do not need to be fed every single day. It's better to feed based on their body condition. A very light misting on the side of the enclosure once a week, or every two weeks for water.

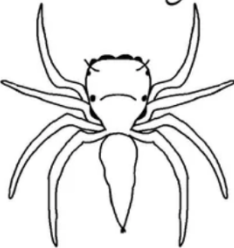
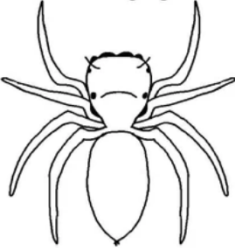
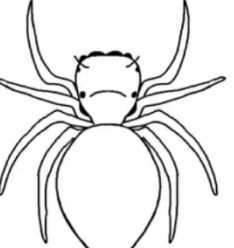
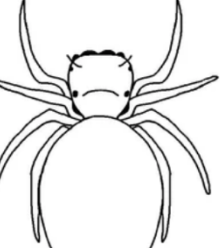
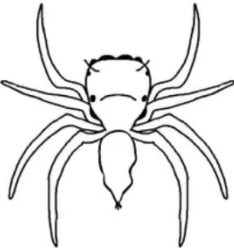
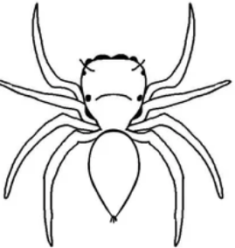

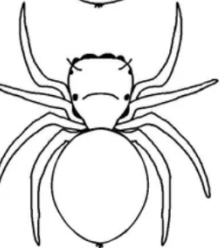
Remember that jumping spiders have book lungs under their abdomen which can cause them to drown if they land in water, or if there is too much water droplets on the side of the enclosure. Do not provide a water bowl, and make sure your misting is very fine, and dries up after a few hours. Overly humid enclosures that causes condensation on the sides of the enclosure is not healthy for a spider.

Look at the abdomen size:

- **Starving:** Very shrivelled abdomen
- **Hungry:** Normal slim shape
- **Well-fed:** Nice rounded abdomen
- **Overfed:** Extremely large and shiny (reduce feeding)

# Jumping Spider Feeding Guide

For Round-bodied Species

	Starving	Hungry	Fed	Overfed
<b>Slings And Adult Females</b>				
<b>Adult Males</b>				
	<p>Shriveled abdomen, much smaller than the head and showing the legs far too much..</p> <p>Likely dehydrated, as well as starving. Water from a qtip followed by a meal recommended.</p> <p>Feed them a bit every day until a healthy size.</p>	<p>A hungry spider, of a perfectly normal size!</p> <p>Feed and water as normal!</p>	<p>A full spider.</p> <p>Wait for the abdomen to shrink a bit before additional feeding!</p> <p>A little more or less than this is alright as well.</p> <p>Make sure to provide water regardless!</p>	<p>An overstuffed spider</p> <p>They will likely be fine, but definitely wait until it shrinks down to the "Hungry" stage before feeding again.</p> <p>Consider downsizing their prey or feeding less often!</p> <p>An overly full spider may become impacted or injure themselves by falling</p>

## Good Food Options

- Flightless fruit flies (great for very small or baby spiders)
- Pinhead or XS crickets
- House fly pupae

You can use the Bug Frenzy "Chuck me a feed mate!" magnetic feeding cup to keep an eye on how much your spider is eating. Remove any uneaten crickets at night.



If your spider suddenly stops eating, common reasons include: preparing to moult, wrong prey size, stress from a large enclosure, or illness.

## ***Moulting***

Jumping spiders shed their exoskeleton as they grow. They usually spin a special thicker hammock before moulting and may stay inside it for several days to weeks.

The actual shedding process is quick, but give your spider peace and quiet during this time. Do not offer food while they are in the moulting hammock. Do not disturb or poke the spider during this time! Wait at least 24–48 hours after they emerge before feeding again. Usually when they come out of their hammock after a molt, it is safe to offer food.

**\*\*Mismoult\*\*** occasionally happen. Signs include limbs stuck in the old skin or deformed body parts after moulting. In serious cases, move the spider to a humid “ICU” cup to help.

## ***Handling***

Handling is completely optional. Some jumping spiders are friendly and enjoy walking on hands, while others prefer to be left alone. Never force handling.

If you want to interact:

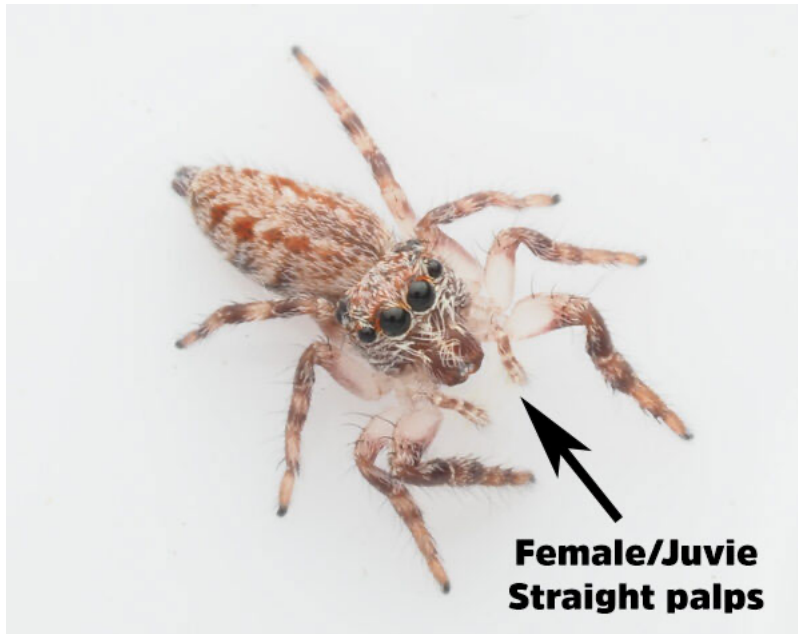
- Wash your hands first
- Move slowly
- Let the spider come to you
- Always hold them close to a surface in case they jump

Older spiders or fast species may be less suitable for handling.

## ***Sexing Your Spider***

It is easiest to tell males from females once they reach the sub-adult or adult stage.





## **Males**

Develop swollen or bulbous pedipalps (the “boxing gloves” at the front). Mature males have prominent palpal bulbs.

## **Females**

Have thin pedipalps and, when mature, show a small plate called an **epigynum** on the underside of the abdomen.

## **Gravid Females & Eggs**

Only mature females can lay eggs. A very plump abdomen is the main sign she may be gravid (carrying eggs).

Eggs can be **infertile** (no mating occurred) or **fertile**. Fertile eggs develop into tiny spiderlings that eventually leave the nest on their own. The mother usually guards the egg sac and may not eat much during this time.

## **Caring for Spiderlings (Babies)**

Once the babies leave the nest, you have two main options:

1. Raise them together for a short time then separate them.
2. House each one individually from the start (safer but more work).

Use small deli cups with ventilation holes, a tiny climbing structure, and very fine misting. Feed them flightless fruit flies or springtails. Be extremely careful with water droplets — babies can drown easily.

## ***Old Age & End of Life***

Most jumping spiders live between 18 months and 3 years. As jumping spiders age, they become less active, move more slowly, and may lose interest in hunting. You can try offering soft food (gently squashed bug guts) to help them.

## ***Common Problems & Intruders***

**Mites :** Grain mites are common but usually harmless. Keep the enclosure clean and remove old food.

**Ants:** Very dangerous — remove them immediately and block entry points.

**Escape:** Always check that ventilation holes are small enough, and that there is no gaps in your enclosure.

## ***Wild-Caught Spiders & Ethics***

If you find or buy a wild-caught jumping spider, make sure it was collected responsibly. If the spider is not settling in after 10+ days (no hammock and refusing food), it is often kinder to release it back where it came from (only in a suitable habitat with existing sightings of the same species).

## ***Choosing a Good Breeder or Seller***

A responsible seller will:

- Be honest about whether the spider is captive-bred, captive-born, or wild-caught
- Tell you the approximate age or instar

- Not sell very young spiderlings (ideally i5 or older)
- Be happy to answer questions and provide support

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## ***Final Tips for Success***

- Provide plenty of climbing surfaces and hiding spots
- Be patient — each spider has its own personality
- Observe your spider daily — they are fascinating to watch
- Enjoy the hobby responsibly and ethically

This guide brings together the most important aspects of jumping spider care in Australia. Feel free to revisit sections as your spider grows and changes. Or you can email, message or call me direct for more information or pressing questions you may have.