



Fiddler crabs care sheet

Origin- Florida marsh lands

Size-1-2 inches

Life span- 2-3 years

Temperature- 70-85

Congratulations on your new pet fiddler crab! These cute little brackish crustaceans are very entertaining and are easy to care for with a little know how. They get there name from the large fiddle shaped claw present on the males, you can easily tell the sexual differences between the males and the females. The male's claw makes up for half their body. The claw is used for a couple of different things. First as a shield to warn off any intruders, second to attract females by waving it back in fourth, the bigger the claw the more females he will attract. Fiddler crabs can pinch your finger but can't cause any harm. They are mostly found along sea beaches, brackish mud plans, lagoons and swamps.

Setting up your tank

Equipment – bowl, gravel, water conditioner, and aquarium salt. An air pump, filter, and liquid biological bacteria are optional and help keep the tank cleaner.

Rinse both the bowl and the gravel with regular tap water thoroughly. **Do not** use soap or any other chemicals. This is the last time the gravel will be cleaned. Tap water conditioner removes the chlorine and chloramines we put in our drinking water to keep it germ free. Aquarium salt is a useful treatment for sores, infections, parasites, and functions as a precautionary measure against disease organisms - plus, it's something brackish creatures must have! Use about 6 drops per gallon of the tap water conditioner and one tablespoon of salt per gallon.

Filling and treating a gallon jug of water, and setting it aside for water changes, is an easy way to pre-measure out your additives and makes water changes easier.

- 1) Fill the bowl halfway with your pretreated water.
- 2) Float the bag within the bowl for about twenty minutes to acclimate the frog to room temperature.
- 3) When your water is all set up you can add some rocks or decorations that protrude out of the water. Fiddler crabs need both land and water, so you're going to need something they can easily climb up and stay dry.
- 4) Now that you have everything set up its time for the fun part, introducing your crab to its new home.

FEEDING-

Fiddler crabs are scavengers. They eat microscopic organisms, algae and bacteria from the substrate, but since you have a sterile environment they won't find much. That's why you have to supplement them with **sinking pellets, freeze dried shrimp, plankton, bloodworms, seaweed, zucchini and fish flakes**. You should feed your crab a very small pinch of food every other day. Don't over feed them because it will cause your water to become dirty quickly. Feeding one weekly vacation food block made for betta fish is an easy alternative to feeding without polluting the habitat.

MOLTING-

Fiddler crabs shed their old exoskeleton about every 8 weeks. This is called molting. Fiddler crabs molt in the water and take about a couple hours to do it. Once they shed the old exo they will eat it to reabsorb the calcium, this will help them harden their new exo. If the exo is not eaten within a week, you can throw it away. It takes a few days for the new one to harden.

TANK MAINTENANCE

After about a week, you might start to notice that your water is becoming cloudy or with a foul odor, by doing water changes you can keep your tank looking clean and your crab happy. Using a simple aquarium filter will keep your water cleaner and fresher longer.

- 1) Remove any decorations that are in your way
- 2) Wipe the walls off with a algae pad
- 3) You can leave your crab in the tank while you carefully swish the gravel around and stir up the gunk at the bottom of the tank, or you can set aside your crab by shooing the crab into a chemical free Tupper ware container with a lid.
- 4) Pour half the water out, but don't rinse the gravel to clean the cage. Overtime safe organisms and algae will grow on your gravel to aid in keeping your water cleaner and provide micro nutrients for your crab.
- 5) Add your water conditioner, aquarium salt and refill with freshwater at room temperature.
- 6) Replace your decorations and hiding spots, repeat the same steps every week.

Make your water changes easier by using a gallon jug, filled with water, the salt, and tap water conditioner, and use this to refill your tank.