

CARING FOR HERMIT CRABS

- **Water**

- Change water every two days using the water provided by the NEC.
 - Big bowl fresh water, small bowl salt water
- Make sure there are some rocks, shells or a ladder in the water dish so the Hermit Crabs have something to help them climb out.

- **Feeding**

- Feed hermit crabs in the bowl provided and replace twice a week (i.e Monday & Thursday) or more often if it looks soiled.
- Fruit and veg can be fed to the crabs daily. Most fruit and vegetables found in children's lunchboxes would be fine e.g. apple, carrot, celery etc. Ensure left over fruit is removed the next day

- **Handling**

- Before handling the crabs rinse hands thoroughly in water (no soap) to remove any harmful substance.
- Adults only to take out or put crabs back in the tank.
- Crabs are best picked up by the back of the shell then placed on the flat palm of the hand. Hermit Crabs are best held in a flat, outstretched palm of the hand.
- Children are NOT to handle Hermit Crab
- Ensure lid is secure after opening
- Handle crabs in moderation as too much handling can cause stress.

- Check tank temperature daily - Hermit crabs may die if too cold or too hot. They prefer to live in temps. 20 - 30°C and are more active when warmer. Turn light globe on in tank if forecast day temp. falls below 25°C or if night temp. falls below 20°C. Turn globe off if forecast day temp. is 30°C or above.
- Be careful if positioning the tank near a window because it may get too hot.
- Lightly spray the tank with a water spray bottle to create humidity. Do not directly spray crabs
- Do not place hermit crabs on carpet - it is bad for their health and they can get fibres caught around their legs. Crabs are best placed on a clean tray or plastic sheet on the floor so children can watch the crabs crawl around.
- Ensure no cleaning chemicals are sprayed around the enclosure as they are very sensitive to chemicals.