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Cricket Care

HOUSING: Keep your crickets in their own cage/container. Be sure the container has adequate air circulation because moisture build up will kill the crickets. Substrate: Don't use any substrate in the cage bottom. Place paper towel rolls, egg carton and/or crumpled newspaper in the cage to increase surface area and to give them places to hide.

DIET: Feed your crickets crushed dry reptile food (that is appropriate for your reptile), crushed bird pelleted diet, and/or commercial cricket food. Check to make sure it is not "gut load", but an actual cricket diet. Gut load diets contain too much calcium for the crickets and will cause mortality. You can offer small pieces of greens like kale and collard greens, too. Remove any old food before mold grows.

WATER: Fold a paper towel into quarters, and dampen with water. Place in the cage bottom away from the crickets' food. Change the paper towel daily to prevent mold growth. You can also use gelled water products available from pet stores.

POWDER SUPPLEMENTS ON YOUR CRICKETS, GENERAL GUIDELINES: Powder your crickets by placing a few in a cup/baggie with the supplement and gently shaking them so that the powder coats the crickets. Use a calcium/D3 powder supplement and a multivitamin powder supplement containing vitamin A separately. The frequency of supplementation will depend on the species of reptile you are feeding.

FEEDING CRICKETS TO YOUR PETS: Have a feeding container in order to feed your reptile outside of its cage. Remove any crickets that remain uneaten about 1 hour after feeding them to your pet. This is important, because the crickets that are left will not have food to eat and may bite your reptile/amphibian (especially if you put the crickets into the reptile enclosure). The crickets will also clean off any powder supplements, so they won't be as nutritious for the pet

PURCHASING: Crickets can be purchased from the pet stores or through internet services. It is ideal to feed the crickets for a few days after you purchase them before feeding them to your reptile to make sure they are nutritious for your pet.