

Land Hermit Crab Owners Society (LHCOS)

Ethical Hermit Crab Care & Conservation

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Classroom Hermit Crab Readiness Checklist

Classroom Resources for Teachers & Educators

Provided by: Land Hermit Crab Owners Society (LHCOS)

Intended audience: Educators, librarians, homeschool instructors, and informal learning programs

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Habitat Setup

- Tank size is at least 20 gallons for a small group of hermit crabs
- Secure lid installed to maintain humidity
- Substrate depth of at least 6 inches using sand/eco-earth mixture
- Substrate moist enough to hold shape when squeezed
- Climbing structures and hiding places provided
- Multiple natural shells available in a variety of sizes

Environmental Conditions

- Temperature maintained between 75–85°F (24–29°C)
- Humidity maintained between 70–85%
- Reliable thermometer and hygrometer installed
- Heating method installed safely (typically a side-mounted under-tank heater)
- Environmental conditions remain stable overnight and during weekends

Water and Food

- Freshwater dish available and treated with dechlorinator
- Marine-grade saltwater dish available
- Water dishes allow crabs to enter but exit safely
- Varied whole-food diet provided instead of commercial pellet diets
- Food dishes cleaned and refreshed regularly

Student Interaction Plan

- Classroom rules emphasize observation rather than handling
- Hermit crabs are not passed around the classroom
- Teacher supervises all habitat interaction
- Students use journals or worksheets to record observations

Weekend and Holiday Care

- Responsible adult assigned to monitor habitat during weekends
- Care plan established for school holidays and long breaks
- Backup caretaker identified
- Equipment checked before extended closures

Animal Welfare

- Hermit crabs were not purchased in painted shells
- Multiple natural shell options available
- Students understand molting behavior and that buried crabs must not be disturbed