**Owning Hermit Crabs**

**By: Rosie L.**

 Everyone thinks the smaller the animal gets the easier the animal becomes to take care of but that’s not true. Owning hermit crabs is a lot of fun but their also a lot of work. To take care of your hermit crabs you need to have the proper food for them, you need to have enough room for them to move around in their cage, and they need to have enough resources in their cage.

To begin with taking care of hermicrabs you need to properly feed them. You already know that animals like dogs and cats eat anything you give them. That’s not the same for hermicrabs because hermicrabs will only eat regular hermit crab food. Also, hermit crabs have to have water but it’s not that easy because hermit crabs can’t have their water any ordinary way you give them the water. You can buy a brown sponge at the pet store specifically for hermit crabs and how it is used is you have to wet the sponge with water and then the hermit crabs drink the water out of the sponge. That’s how you properly feed your hermit crabs to keep them healthy.

In addition, hermit crabs need to have enough room. Hermit crabs need to have a cage about half the size of a fish tank but also no to small because hermit crabs are very active and they like to move around a lot. It is also because your hermit crabs cage has to have high walls so they don’t escape. Another reason your hermit crabs cage has to be big is that your hermit crabs grow and that can make them too big for their shell and at one time of their life they are going to need to switch shells. But, they can only do that if their alone and its dark. It’s not unusual for them either to do it more than once. But there actually another definition of needing enough room and that is you can’t always be picking up your hermit crab and touching it because hermit crabs like their own space to crawl around and be free but sometimes if it sees that you pick it up every time it comes out of it shell than it may start coming out of its shell less than usual because it may not trust you. You kind of want to limit the amount of times you pick up your hermit crab so they can stay active a lot more so you can also see it. Those are the reasons your hermit crabs will need enough room.

Additionally, hermit crabs need to have resources. For example in their cage they need to have sand and rocks so they feel that they are at the beach or at least outside. Also, as mentioned before hermit crabs can be very active so I recommend putting stuff in their cage to climb on like a piece of a net to keep them active. Your hermit crabs won’t always be moving around because hermit crabs also have to sleep at times. Sometimes hermit crabs will sleep for a while and that’s not unusual. If you want you can check on them every once in a while. From experience I know that hermit crabs like to sleep up against like for comfort so they may need something to sleep by for example a rock. That’s another reason your hermit crab will need resources in their cage.

Finally, you can see hermit crabs can be really fun to take care of and sometimes even play with but then again they are also a lot of work to take care of. Owning hermit crabs is a lot of fun but they are also a lot of work. To take care of your hermit crabs properly you need to have the right food for them, they need to have enough room in their cage, and they need to have enough resources also in their cage. That is how you take care o0f your hermit crabs.