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Chilean Rose Tarantula Care Guide

Grammostola rosea — Walckenaer, 1837

Experience	Lifespan	Adult Legspan	Origin
Beginner	Up to 20+ years (females)	4.5–6 in DLS	Chile

Natural History

Grammostola rosea — the Chilean Rose, often called the Rose Hair or simply "Rosie" — comes from the arid scrub and desert margins of northern Chile, including the edges of the Atacama. It is a ground-dwelling species that shelters under rocks and in shallow scrapes through long, dry, sun-baked seasons.

That harsh, low-rainfall origin is the key to its care: this is a dry-climate tarantula that has evolved to weather long stretches with little food or water. In captivity that translates into remarkable hardiness and a famous — sometimes frustrating — willingness to fast for weeks or even months at a time.

The carapace and legs carry a subtle rose or pinkish sheen that gives the species its name, most visible just after a moult. Calm, slow-moving, long-lived, and extremely tolerant of beginner error, the Chilean Rose has been a classic first tarantula for decades.

Housing

The Chilean Rose is terrestrial and only a light burrower. It needs floor space far more than height, and it spends much of its time sitting out in the open rather than digging.

Life Stage	Enclosure	Notes
Spiderling (under 1")	Deli cup / small vented container	Mostly dry substrate, small water source
Juvenile (1–3")	16 oz – 1 gal enclosure	Cork bark hide, shallow water dish, dry substrate
Sub-adult / Adult (3"+)	5–10 gal or equivalent	3–4 in of substrate, cork hide, water dish, good airflow

Provide 3–4 inches of mostly dry substrate — coconut fibre, peat, or topsoil — a cork bark hide, and a permanent water dish. Décor can be minimal; this species is not a heavy webber and prefers an open, simple layout.

Temperature & Humidity

Warm and dry mirrors the Chilean scrub. This species is exceptionally tolerant of normal household conditions.

Parameter	Target	Notes
Temperature	70–80°F (21–27°C)	Room temperature is ideal; avoid sustained drops below 65°F
Ambient Humidity	40–55% RH	Dry — this is a desert-margin species
Substrate	Dry	Keep it dry; the water dish supplies all the moisture needed
Water	Permanent water dish	Keep filled at all times; this is the spider's main water source

MOST COMMON MISTAKE

Over-misting. The Chilean Rose is a dry-habitat species and thrives on a simple full water dish, not a damp enclosure. Constant moisture causes far more problems than the dry conditions ever will.

Feeding

The Chilean Rose is an opportunistic feeder with a slow metabolism. It eats well when it wants to — and then sometimes refuses food for weeks or months for no obvious reason. This is normal and not a cause for alarm in an otherwise healthy, plump spider.

Prey: Gut-loaded crickets, Dubia roaches, and the occasional mealworm. Keep prey no larger than the spider's abdomen.

Frequency: Juveniles every 5–7 days, adults every 7–14 days when feeding. During a fast, simply keep the water dish full and offer food occasionally; a healthy adult can safely go a long time without eating.

Remove uneaten prey within 24 hours, especially during a fast or pre-moult.

Moulting

This is a slow-growing species, and adults may moult only once a year or less. A fresh moult brings out the rose tint of the carapace at its strongest. Long fasts often precede a moult.

Pre-moult signs: A darkened abdomen, prolonged food refusal, lethargy, and sometimes a web mat over the substrate. Remove all live prey at the first signs.

Post-moult: Leave the spider undisturbed and wait 7–14 days before feeding so the new exoskeleton and fangs harden fully. Keep the water dish topped up throughout.

Handling

The Chilean Rose is generally placid and is one of the species most often handled by hobbyists. That said, individuals can be moody — most are calm, but some will adopt a defensive posture or flick hairs when disturbed. Handling is always done at the keeper's own risk and never entirely without it.

Urticating hairs are present (Type III) and may be kicked off the abdomen when the spider feels threatened — they can irritate skin and are especially uncomfortable near the eyes. Keep sessions calm and brief, stay low over a soft surface, and never handle over a hard floor, as a fall can rupture the abdomen and be fatal.

This guide was compiled using commonly accepted husbandry practices from experienced keepers and industry-standard tarantula care resources.

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