

# Fiddler Crab

## A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

### Immediate Care and Handling

As soon as your shipment arrives, it is important to **release crabs to holding containers**, such as plastic pails, or habitats. Do not leave them in shipping bags.

Add a few centimeters of conditioned water to each pail. Open the bags slightly so you can pour out and discard the shipping water. Carefully release the crabs into the holding pails. If males and females were shipped in separate bags, you will want to keep them separate. Cover the pails to prevent the crabs from escaping. Prepare habitats as soon as possible.

### Habitat Setup and Maintenance

Cover the bottom of a terrarium with 4 to 5 cm of sand. Fiddler crabs will usually damage live plants, but you can add a plastic plant or sticks for decoration. Set a small bowl or dish (glass or plastic) into the sand so that the rim of the bowl is flush with the surface. Half fill the bowl with conditioned, dechlorinated water. (See General Guidelines for information on conditioning tap water.) Keep the water bowl half full at all times, and change when dirty. Place a few pieces of dried plankton or brine shrimp flakes into the terrarium, add the crabs, and cover. Fiddler crabs also eat pet food and bits of fruits and vegetables.

There may be a small bag of marine salt taped to the shipping bag, which you can use to make a brackish water solution. Add about 1 gallon (¼ tsp) of marine salts to about 1.5 L of conditioned, dechlorinated water. Offer it just like fresh water (see above paragraph). To make your own, you can use any marine salt, rock salt, or noniodized salt.

Direct sunlight may kill the crabs, so place the terrarium in indirect light. Maintain at 20 to 25° C (68 to 77° F). The crabs will be more active when warm.

### FAQ's

*How do I keep my fiddler crabs healthy?*

Keep them at a consistent temperature and change their water regularly.

*Will the fiddler crabs mate?*

You may observe courtship behavior in which the male waves his large claw to attract the female. Usually the male must have a burrow before the female will mate with him. There is not enough sand in the terrarium for the male to excavate a burrow, although he may try.

*How long do fiddler crabs live?*

In the wild, no one knows. In captivity, they can live for a school year with good care.

*Can I keep 2 or more males in a terrarium?*

Probably. Male fiddler crabs may wrestle, push, and shove each other, especially in the presence of a female. These matches rarely result in injury but may stress the loser.

*A crab has molted. What do I do?*

Very little. Do not remove the molted skin. The crab will eat it, providing needed calcium. The crab will be fragile for several days. If another crab is bothering the crab that has molted, remove the other crab for a few days.

**Problems?** We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

**Orders and replacements:** 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

**Technical Support and Questions:** [caresheets@carolina.com](mailto:caresheets@carolina.com)



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