



FACT SHEET - STICK INSECTS

Stick insects are interesting creatures to watch and observe. They can lay hundreds of eggs so most will need to be destroyed otherwise you will become over-populated. They need very careful and sensitive handling. Because of their camouflage, care needs to be taken to avoid any insects being thrown out with old plants.



Stick Insects Need

- A diet of fresh leaves such as bramble leaves. Plants should be sprayed with water daily and changed often
- A large, well ventilated cage, large enough for the insect to climb out of its skin when shedding
- Paper to line the floor of the cage which can be replaced when soiled
- To be kept in a warm place but away from direct sunlight
- To be let out of the cage occasionally to fly, if it has wings

Stick Insect Health

- Mites. Keep the cage clean and well ventilated
- Losing a leg is not fatal as it has the ability to grow another after it has shed its skin
- Twitching may indicate that the insect has eaten some leaves with a residue of pesticide resulting in death
- Problem shedding their skin can be helped by wetting the skin and very gently peeling it off
- Stick insects may fight and even eat each other when they are fed incorrectly, overcrowded or not given enough water

Stick Insect Facts

- Average lifespan is about 12 months
- Some species are parthenogenesis - when there are no males.
- The females produce fertile eggs without being mated

This is intended as a quick guide only. Further information should be obtained before embarking on keeping this type of pet.