

Care of the Indian Stick Insect (*Carausius morosus*)

The Indian Stick Insect is the most common stick insect in the pet trade and is also the easiest to keep. They are great pets for kids.

They reproduce asexually (parthenogenetic) and almost all individuals are female. An adult female will live for several months and lay one or two eggs a day. An egg is 2mm (0.08") long, are brown and has a lump on one end. The eggs take about four months to hatch. The hatchlings are about 1cm long and moult about five times, increasing their size to an adult of up to 10cm (4"). They live for approximately one year.

Housing

They need a tank or jar which has a minimum height of 25cm (10") and ideally 30cm (12"). Good housing includes sweet jars, fish tanks and plastic storage tubs. They need ventilation i.e.g. a mesh lid held in place by a rubber band. You do not need a substrate but you can use orchid bark or vermiculite however these hinder egg collection. Best of all is kitchen roll because it keeps the humidity up and doesn't hinder egg collection.

Basic Care

The Indian Stick Insect needs a temperature of 18°C-25°C which is typical of UK room temperature. They may need to be sprayed with tap water every other day to keep the humidity up to around 70%.

Diet

They like to eat fresh leaves from: Bramble, Rose, Raspberry, Privet and Ivy.