

# YOUR GUIDE TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF JUMPING SPIDERS

What you need to know to care for your tiny, eight-legged acrobat!



## WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF JUMPING SPIDERS

Congratulations on your new jumping spider! These tiny acrobats are incredibly easy and low-maintenance pets. This guide will walk you through what's needed for a happy, healthy spider. Remember, almost everything they do is normal, so relax and enjoy!

## FINDING YOUR NEW TINY TENANT

Whether you choose to adopt from a breeder or find a local jumper in your own backyard, there are a few things to keep in mind.



- **Adopting from a Pro:** There are many wonderful breeders who raise healthy, captive-bred spiders. Before you commit, it's a great idea to do a little research on your chosen breeder. Unethical sellers might not be truthful about a spider's age or could sell you a wild-caught female who is already pregnant, leaving you with hundreds of unexpected grand-spiderlings!
- **Catching One in the Wild:** If you'd rather find your own spider, that's great too! Look in sunny spots, on railings, or near ball fields. A wild-caught spider can be just as friendly and curious as a captive-bred one; their personality is all their own.





## KEEP CLEAR OF CHEMICALS!



Jumping spiders are incredibly sensitive to chemicals and scents. Always wash your hands with unscented soap before handling your new buddy. Keep pesticides, chemicals, cleaning supplies, and strong scented items like perfumes and scented candles away from your spider. Even flea medications and plug in pet calming pheromones can be deadly for your spider.



## CREATING THE PERFECT SPIDER CONDO

Your jumper will spend most of its time at the very top of its enclosure, so think vertical with a bottom or side opening! Here's how to build the perfect pint-sized palace.

### SUPPLIES YOU'LL NEED:

- **An Enclosure:** You can find great pre-made enclosures on line, through The Jumping Burrow, or you can easily make your own from a deli cup or any plastic container that's taller than it is wide, and is appropriately sized so that your spood can easily hunt for their food and have enough room to stretch their eight legs.



**A friendly tip for newbies:** Steer clear of Zilla Micro Habitats, as they are notorious for having spider-sized escape hatches.

- **Ventilation Tools:** A soldering iron (allow fumes to air out before placing your spood in!) or a tiny drill is perfect for creating small air holes. You can also use grommets and fine mesh for a polished look.
- **Decorating Supplies:** This is where you can get creative! Use a hot glue gun to secure silk flowers, twigs, or moss. Just be sure to glue down anything heavy, like rocks, so it can't harm your spider. If you bring in decor from outside, sanitize it first to get



rid of any unwanted hitchhikers. Anything porous should be sealed with water based acrylic to avoid mold growth unless your enclosure will be bioactive. Check labels for curing times since some sealants like Mod Podge can take up to 30 days to fully be cured!

**A word about glue....** Glue guns are generally safe to use. Once the glue is dried or cured there are very little to no toxic gasses. However, hot glue is not always the strongest. It's best to use hot glue on lightweight items or items close to the bottom of the enclosure. Many hobbyists prefer Gorilla glue sticks for its hold strength. For heavier items and things requiring a stronger grip, E6000 adhesive works great, but does take a longer time to cure. Do not introduce your spood to the space until there is no odor left. It is not recommended to use super glue. Dried is not the same as cured. Though some glues may feel dry, they are only fully cured when all fumes have dissipated. Do not introduce your spood to the space until there is no odor left. It is not recommended to use super glue.

- **Substrate (Optional):** A layer of coconut fiber or pesticide free soil on the bottom can create a natural look. However, it's not necessary, and some prey insects love to hide in it.

- **Essential Tools:**

**Fine Mist Spray Bottle**



For providing water.

**Tweezers or Tongs**



For handling food.

**Small, Soft Paintbrush**



For gently nudging your spood if you need to move it.

## BON APPÉTIT! A JUMPER'S MENU

One of the best ways to know if your spider needs to eat is to look at its abdomen. You're aiming for plump, but not so stretched that it looks shiny or engorged.




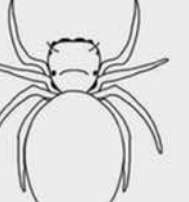
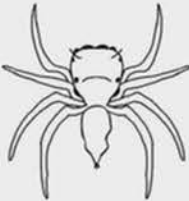


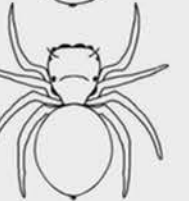
Overfeeding can shorten their lifespan, so let their body shape be your guide.



Created for  
Salticidae Information  
& Guides  
By Rue Morgue

### Jumping Spider Feeding Guide

For Round-bodied Species

	Starving	Hungry	Fed	Overfed
Slings And Adult Females				
Adult Males				
	Shriveled abdomen, much smaller than the head and showing the legs far too much.  Likely dehydrated, as well as starving. Water from a qtip followed by a meal recommended.  Feed them a bit every day until a healthy size.	A hungry spider, of a perfectly normal size!  Feed and water as normal!	A full spider. Wait for the abdomen to shrink a bit before additional feeding!  A little more or less than this is alright as well.  Make sure to provide water regardless!	An overstuffed spider They will likely be fine, but definitely wait until it shrinks down to the 'Hungry' stage before feeding again.  Consider downsizing their prey or feeding less often!  An overly full spider may become impacted or injure themselves by falling

### • Feeding Frequency:

- **Slings (Babies):** These little ones are growing fast and may eat 2-3 fruit flies per day.
- **Sub-adults:** Every 3 to 7 days is a good schedule.
- **Adults:** Feeding every 5 to 9 days is typically sufficient. Males often eat less than females and may even go a few weeks without eating.

### • What to Serve:



- **For Slings:** Start with smaller fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) and move up to larger ones (*Drosophila hydei*) as they grow.







- **For Juveniles & Adults:** House flies, blue bottle flies, mealworms, and small crickets are all excellent choices. Waxworms are a great treat but are fatty so should not be used as a staple food. Don't be afraid to offer prey that's up to twice your spider's size—they are fierce hunters, however always monitor your spood until the prey has been incapacitated if they are taking down a mealworm or cricket. They have nasty bites and can do serious and even fatal harm!



- **Common Concerns:**

- **My spider won't eat!** Don't panic. Spiders can go a long time without food, especially mature males. They know what they're doing.
- **Are crickets dangerous?** While a cricket could potentially harm a spider, it rarely happens. If you're worried, you can remove the cricket's back legs to slow it down.



## HYDRATION STATION: WATER & HUMIDITY

Your spider gets most of its water from little droplets (think morning dew!).



- **Misting:** Lightly mist one side of the enclosure every day or two. The spider will drink from the droplets. Be careful not to spray your spider directly, especially if it's a tiny sling, as they could drown.

- **Humidity:** For most common species, daily misting is enough to keep humidity around 50-60%. You don't need a special gauge called a hygrometer, but it is helpful. Be sure to research what your specific species needs are.
- **A Special Treat:** On rare occasions, you can offer a tiny slice of watermelon, a cut grape, or a piece of melon as a fun, hydrating treat. Think of it as spider juice!



## THE BIG CHANGE: ALL ABOUT MOLTING



Molting is how your spider grows, shedding its old exoskeleton for a new one. It's one of the most common reasons new owners worry, but it is a completely normal process.

- **Instars:** "Instar" is the term for the stage between molts. A spider that has molted 3 times is called a 4th instar, or i4.
- **Signs of Molting:** Your spider will build a very thick, cozy hammock and may stay inside for a long time—from a few hours when they are young to even a month for its final molt! It will likely not eat during this time.
- **What to Do:** Just leave them be. They know exactly what they're doing. Continue to mist the enclosure to keep the humidity up, and lightly mist the hammock, which helps the molting process. After they emerge, the best practice is to wait at least 72 hours before feeding them to allow their new fangs to harden.



- **Losing a Limb:** If a juvenile spider loses a leg, it can often regrow it during the next molt or two! Unfortunately, an adult spider cannot regrow a lost limb but do absolutely fine even if they lose multiple legs!



## SPOOD 101: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Is it a boy or a girl?

It can be hard to tell until they're mature, which can take around 9 months. Generally, males have smaller abdomens and large, bulbous pedipalps that look like little boxing gloves when mature. Females tend to have plumper abdomens, thinner "bottle-brush" pedipalps, and a visible epigynum (resembles a belly button!) on their underside once mature. It's matte when they are subadult, and then shiny once they are mature.



### My spider escaped! What do I do?

Don't panic. Keep looking up. Check ceilings, curtains, and near windows and lamps. People have found their escapees a month later!



## Can jumping spiders bite humans?

It is extremely rare, but yes, they can. A bite usually only happens if they feel squished or cornered. The sensation is often compared to a bee sting and may cause some localized swelling or itching for a few hours or days.

## What if my spider seems sick?

Sometimes, despite our best efforts, a spider may become ill.

You can offer it sugar water on a q-tip or the "guts" from a mealworm. Moving it to a smaller "hospital" cup can help it conserve energy and makes it easier for you to keep an eye on it.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more detailed information on jumping spiders, check out The Hammock Hangout on Facebook as well as [JumpingSpidersUSA](#) on YouTube.

On behalf of everyone at [The Jumping Burrow](#), thank you for your trust in us to provide you with your newest family member and it's accessories. Please visit us at [www.thejumpingburrow.com](http://www.thejumpingburrow.com).



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