



Giant Cockroaches

1 Are you looking for a new pet? Maybe you would like something a bit different? Then a giant cockroach could be the perfect pet for you.

Giant cockroaches are not cuddly like cats. They are not even playful like dogs. Still, more and more people are buying them as pets.

2 Giant cockroaches are not quite the same as the black or brown cockroaches that run around houses. They are bigger and can be as long as eight centimetres. They also come in some interesting colours and patterns. One type has an orange head and another is striped like a zebra.

Giant cockroaches do not live in garbage.

They are much cleaner than the cockroaches that you might find in your home.

3 So why would you keep a cockroach as a pet?

There are lots of reasons people keep giant cockroaches as pets. Firstly, they don't need as much care and attention as dogs or cats. They don't need to be walked, brushed or groomed.

Also, giant cockroaches don't take up much space. They can even be kept in an apartment with no yard. They don't need a special diet and they don't eat a lot, so food costs are low.

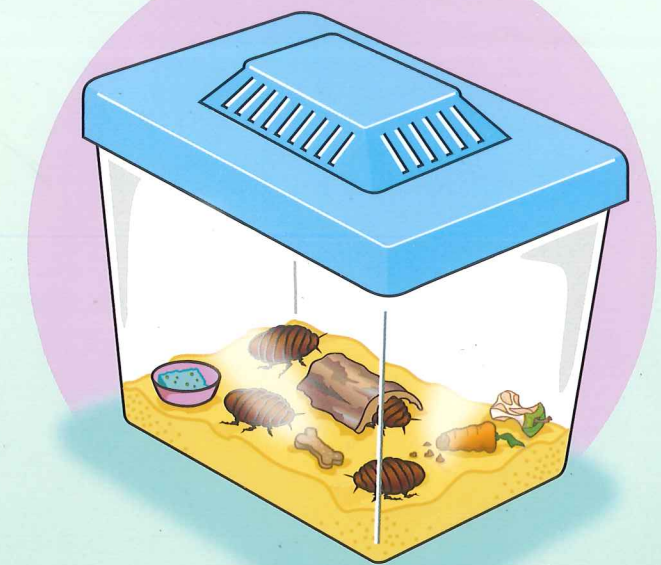
4 Giant cockroaches are very easy to look after, so they are good for busy people. They don't bite or sting. Children can pick them up and handle them easily. Some owners say that giant cockroaches are quite smart and will learn simple tricks.

Many people are allergic to animals with fur or hair. Giant cockroaches make a good pet for people who might not be able to have a dog or cat because of their health.

5 Lastly, giant cockroaches do not cost a lot of money. Some bigger pets can cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Giant cockroaches can be as cheap as just a few dollars.

6 You can buy your giant cockroaches from a pet store. If they don't have them in the shop, they can usually order them for you. Giant cockroaches can also be ordered on the Internet and posted through the mail.

As well as the cockroach, you will need to buy a plastic or glass tank to keep it in. This should have a lid with mesh in it, so your cockroach can breathe but not escape. The floor of the tank should be covered in dry sand or wood chips. This needs to be changed once a month to keep it clean. You should also give your cockroach some places to hide. These can be cardboard rolls or pieces of bark.



7 Your cockroach will need food and water. The water dish should be shallow and have a clean piece of sponge to soak up the water. The cockroach can drink from the sponge. That way the cockroach will not drown in the water. This water should be changed once a week.

- 8 You can feed your cockroach almost anything. You can give it dry dog biscuits, fruit or vegetables. Apples and carrots are great, but try to feed the cockroach a variety of food. Cockroaches should be fed every few days. The food can be kept in a shallow dish.
- 9 Giant cockroaches do not need special lighting in their tank. They need to be kept at room temperature, so if your house does get very cold (below 20 degrees Celsius) they will need to be kept warm. A desk lamp should be all you need to keep

the tank warm.

- 10 You can pick your giant cockroach up by scooping your hand under it. It is best not to pick it up from the top as you may squeeze it. Once you have picked it up you can let it walk on your hands and up your arms. It will tickle you gently but it won't hurt.

Giant cockroaches are very easy pets to look after. The hardest part might be convincing your parents to let you get one!

Questions

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 How are giant cockroaches different to other pets such as cats and dogs?
a They are clean.
b They are cuddly and playful.
c They are not cuddly and playful. | 4 What should be changed weekly?
a food
b water
c sand and wood chips |
| 2 Which statement is not true of giant cockroaches?
a They live amongst garbage.
b They don't need a lot of care and attention.
c They are bigger than normal black and brown cockroaches. | 5 Cockroaches like
a a hot environment.
b a cold environment.
c room temperature. |
| 3 To enable cockroaches to breathe, the tanks should
a be very shallow.
b have a mesh roof.
c contain a sponge to soak up the water. | 6 How do we know that giant cockroaches are safe pets?
a They are quite smart.
b Children can handle them safely.
c They are suitable for people with allergies. |

Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues. The brackets show the text sections ().

simple centimetres groomed
shallow apartment

- 7 A measurement of length (2)
8 Made something look neat and tidy (3)
9 A building that many people live in(3)
10 Easy to understand (4)
11 The opposite of deep (8)

Grammar

The words in **BLUE** appear in the text. Match them by writing the correct synonym shown in **RED**.
E.g. **under** / **below**

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 12 different | enormous |
| 13 giant | purchase |
| 14 costs | unusual |
| 15 buy | expenses |

Back To The Text

- 16 Who do you think this text is most likely written for?
a children b adults
- 17 What would be a good sub-heading for section 5?
a Cockroach Costs
b Cockroach Containers

- 18 In which part of the library would you find this text?

a fiction b non-fiction

Cloze

Pet Rocks

Choose from the following words to complete this cloze passage.

water rocks
unusual teach anywhere

If you are looking for a really **19** pet you should think about getting a pet rock. Pet **20** need very little care. They are very cheap to keep and can be found almost **21**. They need no food or **22** and never complain. On the negative side though, the only trick you can **23** them is to SIT!

Challenge Option

Research: Find out the name of the world's biggest insect.

