

# Dorothy



## Species

Chilean rose tarantula (*Grammostola rosea*)

## Habitat

Native to desert and scrub regions of Chile, Bolivia and Argentina.

## Care

A 5-10 gallon tank with a heat mat, hides and logs helps Dorothy feel safe and gives her space to wander around.

## Food

Live crickets and locust.

## Characteristics

Dorothy has beautiful brown hair tinged with pink all over her body. She has eight eyes, eight legs and two feelers at the front (known as pedipalps) to help her investigate her surroundings. Size 11-14cm.

## Why we love Dorothy

Dorothy is a fascinating, beautiful creature. She feels light as a feather on your hand and doesn't scuttle like house spiders.

*Read Dorothy's story on the next page...*

## Dorothy's story

Dorothy the Chilean rose tarantula is always very popular and has helped conquer kids' and parents' fear of spiders.

Tarantulas are one of those animals that people either love or hate. They get a bad rap for being scary and dangerous, but the lovely Dorothy is neither of those things.

Chilean rose tarantulas are known for being one of the most docile and chilled out tarantulas. Dorothy doesn't scuttle quickly and will sit calmly on your hand or leg.

Clare's 4-year old spiderman-mad son is completely dotty about her.



Dorothy was rehomed with Clare in May 2018 when she was just under 1 years old, which is considered a sub-adult. This means she has more growing to do and will still moult fairly regularly. Moulting is when a tarantula takes off their entire skin, known as an exoskeleton, and replaces it with a new one. This lets them grow bigger.

Female Chilean rose tarantula can live up to 20 years, so she has lots of time to reach her full size. Males only live up to 5 years.

