

## Critter Care Tips...

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Live Materials Advisory</b> <u>Mountain Home Biological</u></p> <p>Living organisms are provided for educational use in classroom setting only. The release of these organisms may be illegal in some states. The purpose of these laws is to protect the native wildlife. Under no circumstances should living material be released into the wild!</p>	
<p><b>Amoeba Culture:</b> Immediately upon receipt, carefully open the jar. Aerate the culture using a clean pipette. To find amoeba more easily, allow the culture to remain undisturbed for 15 to 20 minutes. Most of the amoebae will settle to the bottom and begin to crawl about. Never place the culture in a refrigerator or in direct sunlight.</p>	<p><b>Isopods:</b> Should be placed in a covered habitat with a few inches of moist potting soil. Add damp cardboard (paper towel rolls work well) damp paper towels, leaves or bark. Pillbugs like to burrow down in the dirt where they nest. Use caution in disturbing the nest, babies are very tiny. Sowbugs cling to decayed wood, bark and moist paper. Their babies are usually in the cracks and crevices of wood/bark. Put in a few potato pieces or any root vegetables for food. Mist the habitat and keep it in a cool location.</p>
<p><b>Duckweed and Elodea:</b> Are both pond plants. They should be put in water that has been dechlorinated or aged at least 24 hours. These aquatic plants will thrive in a healthy aquarium with fish, pond snails or crayfish and are helpful in maintaining water quality and providing oxygen.</p>	<p><b>Land Snails:</b> When you receive your snails they may be retracted into their shells. To revive them mist with water. The snails need a moist environment and will eat potato, cabbage or corn meal. Add chalk to strengthen the shell.</p>
<p><b>Earthworms:</b> Should be placed in a terrarium with moist soil. The terrarium should be kept in a cool place. The worms will eat organic matter. Do not feed any meat, citrus fruits or foods that are highly acidic.</p>	<p><b>Madagascar Hissing Cockroach:</b> All known species of cockroach are omnivorous (this means like you and me they eat nearly everything) though in captivity most species do well on a mixture of feed, such as rolled oats, dog or cat food. They also enjoy fresh vegetables and fruit. You don't need to feed every day, but make sure they always have enough to eat or otherwise they will eat each other.</p>
<p><b>Euglena Culture:</b> Immediately upon receipt, carefully open the jar. Aerate the culture using a clean pipette. Euglenae do best in well-lighted area (artificial light), but out of direct sunlight. The culture should be kept cool with the lid placed lightly over the jar. The water in the culture should not become clouded. Each week draw off and discard ¼ of the culture water and replace it with new spring water.</p>	<p><b>Milkweed Bugs:</b> The bugs should be placed in the prepared habitat as soon as they arrive. The bugs need access to water as soon as they hatch. They eat shelled sunflower seeds, unsalted only! Keep the wick in the water container fresh so it does not dry out. It should be changed when it begins to turn brown on the edges.</p>
<p><b>Fish:</b> We recommend having dechlorinated water prepared in advance of your shipment. It is very important not to overfeed your fish; uneaten fish food will quickly destroy water quality and lead to health problems in fish. To maintain a healthy tank change 1/3 of the water every week. Aquatic plants will help keep water quality good.</p>	<p><b>Paramecia Culture:</b> Immediately upon receipt, carefully open the jar. Aerate the culture using a clean pipette. Keep the culture with the lid placed lightly over the jar. Add spring water or pond water as needed.</p>
<p><b>Gammarus:</b> Are aquatic insects. Put them in dechlorinated water that has been aged. The water should be room temperature and out of direct sunlight. Gammarus will eat decaying fish food and plant material.</p>	<p><b>Pond Snails:</b> Are shipped in a container and should be put in water soon after arrival. They will thrive in a healthy aquarium with fish and aquatic plants. Pond snails are scavengers and will eat aquatic plants and fish food.</p>