

# Zebra Knee Tarantula



## What do we look like?

Zebra Knee Tarantulas, like me, are large spiders and appear to be slow moving, but when we are frightened, upset, or when we are hunting we can move with surprising speed. We get our names because of the stripes we have on our legs. There are two different types of us in the wild. The first is from Costa Rica where our colors are black with white stripes on our legs, and the second color type is from Guatemala where we are dark brown with light tan stripes on our legs. Both color types will grow to be 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and our legs reach 5 inches long. Males live to be 3 years old on average, while females live much longer: up to 15 years.

## Where do we come from?

We originate from the pacific coast areas with elevated tropical forest. We range from the southern United States through Central American countries like Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. We like warmer climates with high humidity. We usually like to stay on the ground, but we can be found climbing trees and our cages.



## What do we eat?

We usually eat large insects like crickets, cockroaches, earthworms, locusts, and pinky mice on occasion.



## Something interesting about us is...

- If you have a one of us as a pet, we are known to be escape artists. So make sure to keep the cage lid on securely.
- After mating, a female Zebra Knee can lay from 100 to 400 eggs at one time.
- I like to live most of my life on the forest floor or even burrow underground. Seeing as how I like to be alone, I will fight other spiders that get too close to me.

