

# Phidippus regius - Sub-Adult Care Sheet

*Dry Climate (Colorado) Edition*

## Species Snapshot

Common: Regal Jumping Spider | Scientific: *Phidippus regius*

Lifespan: ~1-2 years | Temperament: curious, usually calm

## Enclosure

Size: 4x4x6 in minimum, 6x6x6 in is plenty even for adult.

Ventilation: Strong cross-vent (holes on opposite sides). Stale air = mold and bad molts.

Access: Front/top opening so you don't damage the top hammock.

## Lighting (Important!)

Jumpers are diurnal - light controls appetite, activity, and sleep.

Provide bright LED lighting - over 700k lumens is fine - to mimic strong daylight.

Preferably run on a timer for 12-16 hours on / 8-12 hours off.

Place lights above or to the side, not blasting directly into the web. Avoid direct sun through glass/acrylic.

## Temperature & Humidity (Colorado Tweaks)

Temp: 72-82F (22-28C). Use a space-heater for the room if needed.

Humidity target: 55-65%.

Mist heavily every day onto the enclosure walls so large water droplets form for drinking.

During molt: provide large water droplets twice daily on surfaces they can access for drinking; this maintains safe humidity without a humidifier.

Substrate: moist coco coir to help stabilize humidity without swampy conditions.

## Feeding (Sub-Adult)

Hunger signs: the spider leaves its nest and searches the ground or walls as if looking for something.

Feed all they will eat - in my opinion, you cannot overfeed a spider.

Ideal prey: waxworms, Banded crickets only (avoid common brown/house crickets), blue bottle flies, small roaches.

Many prefer prey about 2/3 their body size.

Remove uneaten prey after 24 hrs if ignored (usually pre-molt).

## Webbing & Decor

Provide anchor points up high: silk leaves, cork bark, mesh.

Substrate: moist coco coir to help with humidity; avoid over-wetting.

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## **Molting**

Signs: sealed hammock, less activity, refusal to eat. Do not disturb unless there are clear signs of being stuck.

In dry climates, sometimes they get stuck mid-molt. If shining a bright light through the sac shows the spider stuck for more than 4 hours, you must intervene.

To help: gently hold onto the old exoskeleton and let the spider pull free - most often it's the front arms and/or palps, especially in males.

Sometimes the abdomen is stuck along with legs - survival is slim in that case.

If only the spinnerets ('butt fingers') are stuck, moisten a Q-tip and carefully free them.

If uncomfortable doing this, call me and text '911' before your message: Phone: 720-413-4086

After molt: wait 48-72 hrs before feeding again. Never leave live prey in during molt.

## **Handling**

Handling is fine if the keeper is confident.

Expect 'popcorning' (quick bouncing movements) for the first few minutes - they usually calm down soon.

Never try to grab them. Let them walk onto you or a soft object.

If they escape, check bright, high spots like windowsills, overhead lights, or bright under-cabinet lights - 9 times out of 10 they go there.

## **Cleaning & Rehousing**

Spot-clean weekly; replace coco coir as needed.

6x6x6 enclosure is sufficient for adult - no need to go bigger.

## **Colorado Quick Checklist**

Daily: heavy misting so large droplets form; check spider.

Feed whenever spider searches actively outside its nest.

During molt: large water droplets twice daily; check for stuck molts after 4 hrs.

After molt: wait 2-3 days before feeding again.

## **Hard No's**

Wild-caught bugs.

Over-misting to the point of swampy substrate.

Heat lamps on plastic/acrylic.

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