

**Terrestrial Invertebrates**

**Madagascan Hissing Cockroaches (*Gromphadotina madagascariensis*)**

**Cuban Burrowing Cockroaches (*Bystioda fumigata*)**

**Giant African Land Snails (*Achatina fulica*)**

**Giant Millipedes (*Graphidostreptus* species)**

**Stick Insects (Various species)**

**Hermit Crabs (Various species)**

**Origins:** These various invertebrates come from all over the world and from varying habitats – from coasts to rainforests. They make good children's pets as they are relatively easy to look after and require little maintenance and space. They also produce no allergies, so are good alternatives to hairier pets!!

**Adult Size and Life Span:** These animals all stay relatively small – cockroaches to around 10cm (4"), snails to 20cm (8"), millipedes to 30cm (12"), hermit crabs to around 15cm (6") and stick insects can vary depending on species – the common Indian Stick Insects (*Carausius morosus*) average around 12cm (6") when adult. Invertebrates do not have a long lifespan, ranging from 18 months to 5 years.

**Diet and Feeding:** Cockroaches and millipedes are the detritivores of the forest and so consume any organic matter – they can be fed a mixture of salad items, vegetables, fruit and weeds, fish food and pellets. Giant African Land Snails are herbivorous and again can be fed weeds, fruits and vegetables. They should be provided with a source of calcium such as cuttlefish to ensure their shells remain strong. Stick insects require fresh brambles, ivy, privet or eucalyptus every week. Hermit crabs are scavengers and can be fed on a wide variety of foodstuffs – vegetable matter, fruits, meat and fish food.

## **Swallow Aquatics Caresheet**

**Set Up:** These species require simple set ups – secure plastic tubs with compost and bark substrates will suffice. Pieces of cork bark and stones can be used to provide hiding and climbing places. Average room temperatures are sufficient for all of these animals. The containers should be misted every day to maintain humidity levels. For stick insects, the food stuffs (brambles etc) should be changed every week – they should be kept in a jam jar of water in the container to keep them fresh. Hermit crabs should have a dish of water, changed daily.

**Further Information and Advice:** It is recommended that you read and gain as much information as possible before purchasing your invertebrate. Books and reliable websites are good sources, or alternatively ask a member of staff. Phone advice is available 9am-6pm, 7 days a week on 01953 718184.