Jumping Spider Care Guide

A tiny, big-eyed spider that watches you back

Great first pet



HOME	CARE TIME	COST	LIFESPAN	CUDDLINESS
Small space	A little	$5–$15/mo	1–2 years (females live longest)	Best to watch

AWAKE WHEN	HANDLING	COMPANY	KID-FRIENDLY	ALLERGIES
Awake in the daytime	Gentle, supervised handling	Must live alone	★★★☆☆	Allergy-friendly

Setting up costs about $30–$80 up front, before the monthly costs.

Jumping spiders are the spider for people who don't like spiders: tiny, fuzzy, big-eyed hunters that tilt their heads, track your finger, and pounce like kittens. The regal jumping spider — the pet-store favorite — is docile enough for calm, gentle handling, lives in a jar-sized home, and costs almost nothing to keep. The honest catch: their whole wonderful life lasts only a year or two.

Is a jumping spider a good pet for kids?

Quick answer: Jumping spiders are good pets for the right kid.

- **Best for:** the best eyesight in the bug world — they watch you back, a tiny, cheap, jar-sized setup
- **Keep in mind:** a short life — one to two years
- **Lifespan:** 1–2 years (females live longest)
- **Ongoing cost:** about $5–$15/mo (setup & vet extra)

Company: Jumping spiders are strictly solitary — each spider needs its own little home, or they'll fight.

Is a jumping spider right for us?

Why you'll love a jumping spider

- The best eyesight in the bug world — they watch you back
- Gentle enough for calm, careful handling
- A tiny, cheap, jar-sized setup
- Awake and hunting in the daytime

Things to know

- A short life — one to two years
- Needs live prey like flies or small crickets
- So small that escapes are easy without care
- Each spider must live alone

The honest answer: Yes — the most personable invertebrate you can keep, as long as everyone knows going in that a wonderful year or two is the whole story.

👍 Get one if...

- Your curious eight-year-old is ready for a first spider
- You want a pet that watches back
- You have room for one jar-sized enclosure
- You're willing to talk about a short life upfront

👎 Think again if...

- Your child takes a pet's death hard
- You want a pet that lasts several years
- You're set on a jar with a lid on top — the nest is up there
- You won't keep live flies on hand

How to care for your Jumping Spider

🏠 Home
A small, tall enclosure (front- or side-opening is best) with cross-ventilation, fake or live plants to climb, and a cozy top corner for its silk sleep-sack.

🥗 Food & water
A small live insect — a fly, small cricket, or mealworm — every day or two. Remove uneaten prey.

🩺 Health
Mist lightly most days for water droplets (never soak), keep it at comfortable room temperature, and leave it alone while molting.

🤲 Handling & play
Let it walk onto an open hand at its own pace, low over a table. No grabbing — jumpers are gentle but tiny and fragile.

🤧 Allergies
No fur, feathers, or dander (their fuzz isn't like a tarantula's itchy hairs) — a good allergy-friendly pet.

✅ Before you bring a jumping spider home

A jumping spider is a tiny, big-eyed, watch-and-gently-hold pet that lives in a jar-sized home. They're easy and cheap — and honestly short-lived, at one to two years.

🏠 Room at home

A small, tall enclosure on a desk or shelf is all it takes — out of direct sun, which can overheat a tiny home in minutes. Front- or side-opening is best.

🛒 Supplies to get first

Get a small tall enclosure with cross-ventilation, fake or live plants to climb, a mister, feeder insects (flies or small crickets), and soft feeding tongs.

🩺 Finding a vet

No vet treats a jumping spider — good care is the whole game: light misting, room temperature, right-sized prey, and total peace while it molts.

💰 Money & emergencies

Nothing to insure — the whole setup costs less than a video game. Keep a few feeder insects on hand and you're covered.

Your routine — tick them off

Every day

- ☐ A quick look — hunting, exploring, or cozy in its silk sack

Every week

- ☐ Feed a small insect every day or two
- ☐ Light misting for water droplets
- ☐ Remove uneaten prey

Now & then

- ☐ Tidy the enclosure gently
- ☐ Check ventilation
- ☐ Leave it completely alone if it's molting

Monthly cost: Tiny: a small enclosure, some decor, and pennies of feeder insects each week.

Fun facts

- A jumping spider can leap many times its own body length — with a silk safety line every time.
- Jumping spiders have some of the best eyesight of any bug-sized animal, and they'll turn to watch you back.
- Before a big jump, a jumping spider always attaches a silk dragline — its own built-in bungee cord.

Where this comes from

Vets, charities & official guidance

- Regal jumping spider — University of Florida IFAS Extension (ask.ifas.ufl.edu)
- Bold jumper — Missouri Department of Conservation (mdc.mo.gov)

Keeper & species-community guides

- Regal jumping spider care sheet — The Tarantula Collective (thetarantulacollective.com)
- Regal jumping spider caresheet — The Bio Dude (thebiodude.com)

This guide is general care information for families, not veterinary advice. Every pet is different: if yours seems unwell, call a vet.
Sources checked August 2026; this guide matches the web page as of Nov 21, 2026.
More on the website (the full care guide, questions families ask, types and breeds, and the "Am I ready?" check):
whatpetshouldiget.com/pets/jumpingspider.html