



**P & K Pets
Info Sheet #19**

19 Magill Rd

Stepney

SA 5069

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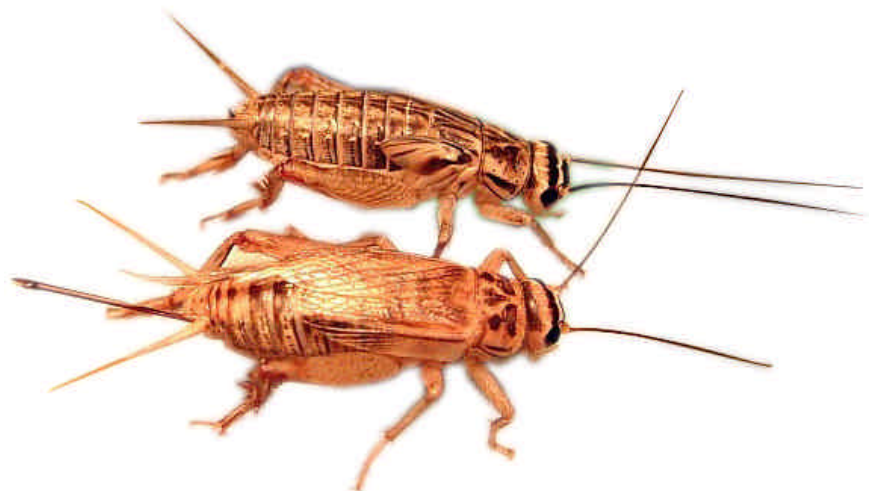
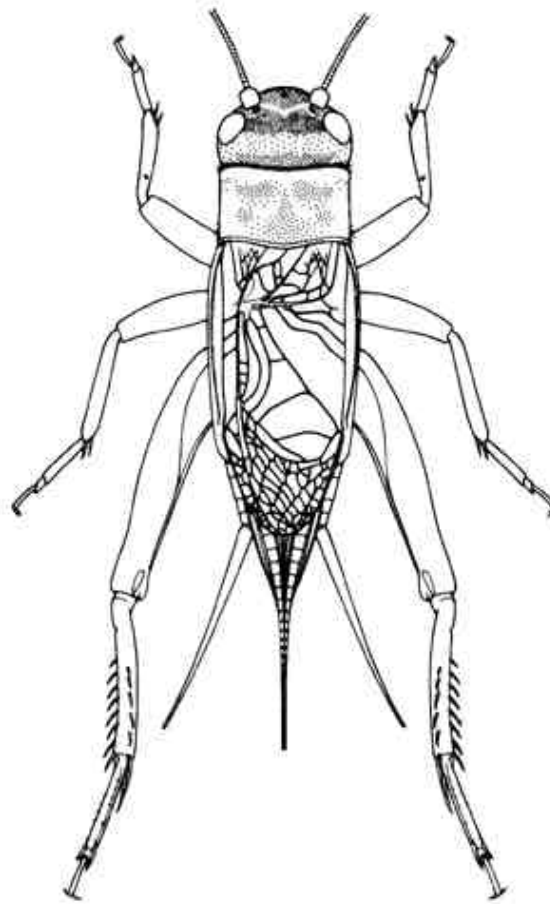
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CRICKETS

CARE



INFORMATION



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INTRODUCTION

Crickets (*Acheta Domesticus*) are the most commonly used live food for many different pets. Crickets are frequently used to feed fish, reptiles, frogs, salamanders, birds, spiders, scorpions and hopping mice. However they are also used for many other animals. Amazingly they are even eaten by us, humans! In countries like Indonesia, they buy and sell crickets and grasshoppers in large quantities in their markets. They make all sorts of wonderful dishes from them, but also eat them fresh, straight off the ground. Pictured right is a “cricket lick-it”. A popular lolly with a real cricket inside!



NUTRITION

Crickets should not be the sole diet for any animal. It should also be noted that crickets are only as nutritious as the food they themselves are eating. If your crickets are starving before feeding them to your pet, their nutritional value will be less than half of that if they were fed properly. So your pet will benefit if your crickets are fed well and healthy. Because of this the following chart should be considered a guide only.

Moisture	74%	Protein	18%	Fat	6%
Ash	1%	Other	1%		

Crickets are not a significant source of Vitamin D3 or Calcium, and hence can be dusted with supplements depending on your pets requirements. Offering your pet a variety of food is also encouraged.

CARE

Crickets supplied by pet stores need little care. They have sufficient food to last them and acquire moisture from a piece of carrot that will need to be replaced every two days. Crickets live for 12 to 14 weeks and when bought as an adult (large) usually only have 2 or 3 weeks before they expire.

