

# Keeping protected scorpions and spiders



From 22 August 2020, you will need a licence to buy, keep, and sell protected scorpions or spiders, with some limited exceptions.

## Why is this change happening?

It is estimated that 10,000 tarantulas are taken from the wild, mostly in Queensland, every year to be sold as pets across Australia. Without regulation, the removal of this many spiders from our environment risks the long-term viability of populations and threatens species with limited distributions.

The new animal licensing framework makes it illegal to collect tarantulas and protected scorpions from the wild without a harvesting licence. It also requires people who keep tarantulas and protected scorpions to hold a licence, allowing the trade of these animals to be monitored.

## Species requiring a licence

All scorpions of the *Urodacus* genus and spiders of the family Theraphosidae (tarantulas) that are native to Australia will be regulated as Class 1 animals.

The Theraphosidae family includes all native tarantula species. Tarantulas are also known as bird-eating spiders, barking spiders, or whistling spiders and those in captivity are most commonly described as:

- *Coremiocnemis tropix*
- *Selenocosmia stirlingi*
- *Phlogiellus* sp.
- *Selenotypus* sp.
- *Selenocosmia crassipes*
- *Selenotholus* sp.

Commonly kept species of scorpions within the *Urodacus* genus include:

- *Urodacus elongatus* (Flinders Ranges scorpion)
- *Urodacus manicatus* (black rock scorpion)
- *Urodacus yaschenkoi* (desert scorpion)

Like other invertebrates (such as cockroaches, centipedes, stick insects, crickets, etc.), all scorpions and spiders that are not classed as *protected* will continue to be allowed to be kept, taken and sold without a licence.

## If you already keep protected scorpions and spiders

If you already keep a protected scorpion or spider **before 22 August 2020**, you can:

- continue to **keep and breed, other than sell or give away**, the scorpion or spider
- release the scorpion or spider into an area of the wild from which it was taken or another appropriate natural habitat.

If you want to sell a protected scorpion or spider that you already keep, or the offspring of a scorpion or spider that you already keep, you will need to apply for a licence and add the scorpion or spider to your online record book. To be permitted to sell an animal, you generally must have kept it for a period of at least six months.

Additionally, if you want to buy or accept a protected scorpion or spider after 22 August 2020 you will need to apply for the appropriate licence.

If you already hold a recreational wildlife licence for controlled, commercial and recreational animals, you can seek to have the protected spiders and scorpions you already keep added to your current recreational wildlife licence by emailing [palm@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:palm@des.qld.gov.au).

Once your recreational wildlife licence expires you will be required to apply for a new licence.



## Which licence should I apply for?

The licence you should apply for depends on the number of protected scorpions and spiders you keep, and whether you wish to breed them.

As a general guide:

- if you maintain a collection of ten or less protected spiders and scorpions and do not breed them – you can apply for a **Standard licence**
- if you want to keep and breed an unlimited number of protected spiders and scorpions – you can apply for a **Specialised licence**.

On either of these licences, you cannot sell a protected scorpion or spider that you have bought or received until you have kept it for at least six months. This does not include the offspring of protected scorpions or spiders that you keep, which can be sold within six months of their birth.

If you wish to trade protected scorpions and spiders within six months of acquiring them, you will need to apply for an advanced licence.

For further details of your requirements and obligations under a licence for protected animals, visit [www.qld.gov.au/WildlifeLicence](http://www.qld.gov.au/WildlifeLicence).

## How to apply for a licence

From 22 August 2020 you will be able to apply for a new licence online at [www.qld.gov.au/WildlifeLicence](http://www.qld.gov.au/WildlifeLicence), and add any protected scorpions and spiders you already keep to your online record book.

