

Jan 20, 2013

What is the life expectancy for strawberries in captivity?

原文: <http://www.hermitcrabassociation.com/phpBB/viewtopic.php?f=30&t=91706&hilit=Strawberry+year>

### What is the life expectancy for strawberries in captivity?

□ Author: [Lofty85](#) » Sun Jan 20, 2013 9:11 am

I want to buy to micro strawberries for another tank of mine and I am concerned about their life expectancy in captivity. Obviously under the wrong conditions it could cut short but I'm going to make sure the proper habitat is maintained. Can anyone say they have kept them for over 10 years?

[Lofty85](#)

### Re: What is the life expectancy for strawberries in captivity

□ Author: [Emily](#) » Sun Jan 20, 2013 12:17 pm

I've never owned them but I believe I read that they are expected to live as long as other crab species if given the correct care.

Unfortunately the average life-expectancy of these crabs is "different" depending on what site you go on. Many people say that they only live for 2 years, but you can probably expect that to be nonsense as the person taking care of the **strawberry** crab probably had little idea of how, or if they did know how, had a complication resulting in the crabs early death.

Other sites will say "7-8 years" which I also think is wrong because I've seen straws the size of my fist (about baseball sized) and I've never seen a crab that big that isn't at least 10 years old.

[Emily](#)

## Re: What is the life expectancy for strawberries in captivit

□ Author: [wodesorel](#) » Sun Jan 20, 2013 12:53 pm

2 to 3 years for straws is about average. I think there may have been a few lucky ones that made it to 5 or 6 years, but it's really rare. (Experienced long-term crabbers still seem to have the best luck with them.)

Straws seem to suffer from molting issues - but it's usually not the crabs themselves having problems, but instead they are being attacked while molting. They don't seem to be sensitive as we used to claim, since straws don't just drop dead like you would expect from problems with temperature or stress. They're so uncommon still that it's hard to say for certain what causes them to not live as long as a PP, and nothing so far has really stuck out as the major problem. Honestly, they seem to have about the same survival rates as Ecuadorians.

Giving them lots of space, lots of digging area (10+ inches when medium-large) and making sure to not overcrowd should probably help them live a "normal" life in captivity. UVB may also play a key role, but we just don't have enough data right now to say for certain if it's helpful or necessary. They should also be provided a wide diet so that key nutrients aren't missed by accident.

[wodesorel](#)

## Re: What is the life expectancy for strawberries in captivit

□ Author: [RockyGurly](#) » Sun Jan 20, 2013 3:52 pm

**Emily wrote:** Other sites will say "7-8 years" which I also think is wrong because I've seen straws the size of my fist (about baseball sized) and I've never seen a crab that big that isn't at least 10 years old.

It depends on how big they are when you get them 😊 Some people get jumbo straws, which may be 20+ years old already, but they spent those years in the wild, and it doesn't change their life expectancy (in fact it may shorten it since larger crabs seem to suffer more from PPS)

No one really knows why it's shortened yet, a few people may have had them for longer than expected, but there are always variables. I lost my first **strawberry** after a **year** and a half because he surface molted 😞 I think they may need a larger tank with fewer crabs and deeper substrate than usual (I think crabbymom has this kind of set up going, although I don't know the specifics of her success rate)

We're not asked to do great things, we're asked to do all things with great care.

[RockyGurly](#)

## Re: What is the life expectancy for strawberries in captivit

□ Author: [CrabbyMom33](#) » Thu Jan 24, 2013 9:36 pm

**RockyGurly wrote:** I think they may need a larger tank with fewer crabs and deeper substrate than usual (I think crabbymom has this kind of set up going, although I don't know the specifics of her success rate)

I have a 90 gallon with possibly 19 crabs in it - see signature for the mix. I say possibly because I haven't seen a couple of them for a while so something may have happened to them. My substrate is 10" to 11". There are 5 straws, 3 that I've had for 17 months, and 2 that I've had for 14 months. I've had one death when they were in the 29 gallon with 8" of substrate and the death was due to being attacked by one of the other crabs while dug down. I did find that the substrate was wet at the bottom when I emptied the tank, so they probably couldn't use the full depth.

I do think not over populating, or not even populating to the maximum suggested levels, in addition to deep substrate, may be one of the keys to keeping the straws.

[CrabbyMom33](#)

## Re: What is the life expectancy for strawberries in captivit

□ Author: [scyllarus](#) » Sun Jan 27, 2013 4:49 am

**wodesorel wrote:** Honestly, they seem to have about the same survival rates as Ecuadorians.

Woah, do Es have low survival rates? Or do you mean that straws have regular survival rates? I'm just kind of surprised because I seem to have the best luck with Es, even over PPs.

[scyllarus](#)

## Re: What is the life expectancy for strawberries in captivit

□ Author: [wodesorel](#) » Sun Jan 27, 2013 5:42 am

I know it's been more than just me having bad luck with them lately. They tend to go after each other when molting...

[wodesorel](#)

## Re: What is the life expectancy for strawberries in captivit

□ Author: [parrothead](#) » Sun Jan 27, 2013 9:33 am

I lost my Jumbo straw a few months ago. She left a window during her molt and everything was running smoothly until she was attacked. It took her almost 6 weeks to shed her exo until one day I noticed a small PP that dug down to her. I was forced to dig her up and ISO her. There were no injuries from the attack, never the less, she didn't make it through the night. I was horrified! I think had she not been disturbed, she may have succeeded in her molt. Which is rare for a Jumbo Straw.

6 PP's, 4 E's, 2 Viola, 2 Ruggies

2 cats , 2 dogs

Salt water reef tank w/ MHC

[parrothead](#)

## Re: What is the life expectancy for strawberries in captivit

□ Author: [annopia](#) » Wed Jan 30, 2013 8:06 pm

i've been crabbing for about 8 years now, and the best i've managed with a straw is about 3 years 😞 . i've had my current straw for about a **year** and a half and i'm hoping to make it past the 3 **year** mark with her.

i have noticed that straws are less tolerant of low temps than any other species, however.

[annopia](#)

## Re: What is the life expectancy for strawberries in captivit

□ Author: [Lofty85](#) » Wed Jan 30, 2013 10:04 pm

**annopia wrote:** i've been crabbing for about 8 years now, and the best i've managed with a straw is about 3 years 😞 . i've had my current straw for about a **year** and a half and i'm hoping to make it past the 3 **year** mark with her.

i have noticed that straws are less tolerant of low temps than any other species, however.

annopia

Thanks for the feedback. Do you have other species mixed in with your straws?

## [Re: What is the life expectancy for strawberries in captivit](#)

□ Author: [annopia](#) » Thu Jan 31, 2013 8:37 am

yes...i have never had a straw-only tank. right now my straw is in with a blueberry, ruggies, an indo, and a couple PPs. i have also had straws in with violas and Es, though. i don't particularly like them with Es, however...they are so delicate during their molts, and Es dig so much 😞 . personal choice though! Lychee (my straw) actually digs just about as much as an E, though, just much much more slowly 😂

[annopia](#)

## [Re: What is the life expectancy for strawberries in captivit](#)

□ Author: [Striker0086](#) » Thu Jan 31, 2013 8:42 pm

So far my only E doesn't dig much. He has calmed down a lot since I got him. He mostly stays above ground. The only big diggers I have are my viola's. They only come out at night at about 2ish in the morning. Then they disappear during the day.

[Striker0086](#)