

Jan 5, 2013

Straw observation - lower temps

原文: <http://hermitcrabassociation.com/phpBB/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=91410&hilit=strawberry+life>

Straw observation - lower temps

□ Author: [CrabbyMom33](#) » Sat Jan 05, 2013 10:15 pm

I finally got around to changing my Ultratherm from the 6"x47" to the 11"x47" this weekend. Over the past week when the outside temps (and inside at our house!) were lower my temp in the tank was lower than normal. It was dropping to 73 at night and only getting to 77 during the day. For PPs we would consider that OK, but not optimal. For Straws we normally would consider that to be way too low.

Here's what I found. I have 5 straws, 2 are dug down. Of the three that were up, they were not quite as active as normal, but they were out and moving around, eating, drinking, climbing - - basically acting like crabs. It is often said that with straws your conditions have to be very consistent. I'm not finding that to be the case. I think they are tougher than we have given them credit for in the past. That said, now that the temp is getting back up to 81 or 82 during the day they are out more, but so are my PPs.

[CrabbyMom33](#)

Re: Straw observation - lower temps

□ Author: [Striker0086](#) » Sat Jan 05, 2013 10:30 pm

Wow, my UTH just gave out and I am struggling to keep the tank above 70. 😞 I'm alright during the day once the light is on and running because I wrap the entire tank to redirect the heat. At night though the temp drops.

[Striker0086](#)

Re: Straw observation - lower temps

□ Author: [CrabbyMom33](#) » Sat Jan 05, 2013 10:33 pm

What about using a night bulb both day and night to keep the temps up? I have bi-lights and in one of them I have the night bulb on 24x7 in the winter to add some extra heat at night when we have the thermostat in the house set to drop back several degrees.

[CrabbyMom33](#)

[Re: Straw observation - lower temps](#)

□ Author: [Striker0086](#) » Sat Jan 05, 2013 10:42 pm

Also I would like to add this happened to me before with two other straws I had. The tank dropped to 72 for about a month. They did act normal. The humidity was normal. However I ended up loosing them.

[Striker0086](#)

[Re: Straw observation - lower temps](#)

□ Author: [Striker0086](#) » Sat Jan 05, 2013 10:43 pm

CrabbyMom33 wrote:What about using a night bulb both day and night to keep the temps up? I have bi-lights and in one of them I have the night bulb on 24x7 in the winter to add some extra heat at night when we have the thermostat in the house set to drop back several degrees.

Unfortunately I can only use florescent. I have a custom made hood and it only has florescent strips, and I only have on strip.

[Striker0086](#)

[Re: Straw observation - lower temps](#)

□ Author: [sophie anne](#) » Sat Jan 05, 2013 10:49 pm

I'm home from college right now, and my house is about 10°F cooler than my dorm room. That translates to the tank running around 75°F during the day and as low as 70°F at night, but all of my crabs seem to be doing fine. My new straw, Sebastian, is out and about every night eating and drinking despite the lower temperature.

I'll be raising the temp gradually when I get back to school (tomorrow! yay!) but this experience tells me that straws really are a lot tougher than their reputation would have people believe!

[sophie anne](#)

[Re: Straw observation - lower temps](#)

□ Author: [Striker0086](#) » Sat Jan 05, 2013 10:51 pm

I'm a little weary on letting the temp get that low. My straws were able to survive in them, but they died. I don't know if the COD was stress or environmental, or a combination of both.

Also CM33 I sent you a PM. I had a few questions that I didn't want to plaster your topic with.

[Striker0086](#)

Re: Straw observation - lower temps

□ Author: [foamster](#) » Sun Jan 06, 2013 1:06 pm

CrabbyMom, I'm really glad you posted this. I usually keep this particular opinion to myself because I feel it's fairly unconventional, but I'd like to express it here.

From a physiological standpoint, hermit crabs do not experience "stress" in the way we do. They don't possess a centralized nervous system or a brain as we know it (they do have centralized clusters of specialized ganglia, which function much in the way a brainstem would. They also have a ventral nerve cord). When a human says, "I'm very stressed," that usually means we're experiencing some kind of physical reaction to a mental or physical stimulant. We're able to perceive stress because of the release of cortisol in our bodies. And as we all know, it's a terrible feeling. Long term (and I know this from experience, I wouldn't recommend trying it 😊) high amounts of physical and mental stress lead to cardiac arrhythmia (usually a racing heart), insomnia, inability to eat/digest food, depression... the list goes on and on.

As far as I know hermit crabs do not release cortisol when stressed (though I'd like to point out there have been few studies done on this subject). They do have other chemicals which control their actions when challenged by a stressor (lactic acid and adrenaline are two). When experiencing environmental stressors, crustaceans have the capability to understand the consequence of a stressful event and remove themselves from that event if possible (kind of like if you hit a button and get a small shock, you'll stop hitting them button).

The feedback that a hermit crab's body provides when presented with a stressor is no doubt as unpleasant as the feeling we get when we arrive at a class only to find out there's a test that day we haven't studied for. However, I've thus far been unable to find evidence that a hermit crab is affected systemically in the same way as humans (and other vertebrates) are with regards to stress. I'm not saying they don't feel stress or pain, but that they are able to deal with it more readily simply because they don't perceive it in the same way that we do (both mentally and physically).

I don't think as many **strawberry** deaths should be attributed to conditions as we do. If straws were unable to deal with moderate temperature and humidity fluctuations, then their species would have died off a long time ago. For instance, the temperature can drop drastically right before a storm-- enough for you to be warm and comfortable one minute and then a little chilly the next-- with similar humidity fluctuations. Mother Nature is not always kind and the ability to cope with a fluctuating environment is important for long-term species survival. To me, it seems like hermit crabs (all species, but especially straws because of their history of being sensitive) mostly get their fate sealed during the harvesting, shipping, and pet store care process. This is basically the whole idea of PPS, that physically some crabs can handle the bone-dry and other abusive conditions they're put into while other succumb to the poor air quality and terrible food before reaching your home-- or by the time they get to you, they're too far gone for the ill health effects to be reversed. Maybe the reversal process needs to be implemented faster for straws, maybe other hermit crab species are rather exceptional at handling near-suffocation conditions. (Maybe lawmakers need to *start paying attention to hermit crabs and other invertebrates and protect them the way by which humans have a duty.*)

I think we just don't fully understand all the intricacies to keeping hermit crabs. These guys live at or near the equator, where they get full sun exposure pretty much every day. They have a virtually unlimited amount of earth

in which to bury to molt or to weather storms and other natural occurrences. They live in colonies that can cover the beach as far as the eye can see in a very real and very living ecosystem. In the big picture, it's no wonder they have problems adapting to captivity. For all we know, there's some microscopic symbiotic organism that a **strawberry** hermit crab has to pick up from its environment at a very specific time in its **life** to stay alive (heartworms do it, why not crabs?). Hermit crab care is marked by ignorance but little by little, we're filling in the blanks, especially with communities such as this.

oh, if life were made of moments... even now and then a bad one...