



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Chaco Golden Knee (*Grammostola pulchripes*)



Countries: Argentina and Paraguay

Habitat: Native to the grasslands of Argentina and Paraguay, the Chaco Golden Knee tarantula is a ground-living species that burrows when it can. The Chaco Golden Knee natural habitat remains warm throughout the year, with dry spells alternating with periods of heavy rainfall. They prefer using an existing hide rather than digging a burrow.

Diet: Chaco Golden Knee tarantulas live on a diet of smaller arthropods and the occasional lizard or rodent.

Predators: Weasels, hawks, owls, skunks, and snakes.

Behavior: Non-aggressive. Chaco's are reported to be one of the fastest growing species in the *Grammostola* genus, and they also tend to be quite active.

Lifespan: 5-10 years for males, 20-25 for females.

Growth and Development: Chaco golden knees have a leg span that can reach almost eight inches. Unlike many tarantulas there is no set mating season and Chacos will mate year-round due to the mild climate of their home region. After mating, the female can lay between 100-500 eggs which she will wrap up in an egg sac and protect for the six-week incubation period.

Endangered Status: The status of this species is undocumented.

Fun Fact: New World tarantulas (like the Chaco golden knee!) have urticating hairs on the sides and back of their abdomens that can be dropped or flung if the tarantula is under stress. These hairs are itchy and can be irritating to the noses, mouths, and eyes of predators.



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