



A boy and his cockroach. "Cocky" will live for about 7 years and grow to be over 4 inches long. No, he won't fetch or roll over.

* Some people swear that sprinkling boric acid powder along cracks in the floorboards and around electrical outlets will snuff the roaches out. The roaches lick up the fine, poisonous powder when they clean themselves.

* Centipedes love to eat roaches, especially the babies. So you could stock up on centipedes and replace one bug with another.

* Geckos also adore roaches. When those lizard lips meet cockroach carcasses, it's like a fiesta!

* The winner of Australia's 1991 Inventor of the Year award came up with a cockroach zapper, a lot like those bug zappers in everyone's backyards. The roaches creep in to stuff themselves with the roach bait, and end up fried!

The Roach Hall of Fame

* **Biggest?** The Hissing Roach, from Madagascar, is as big as a mouse. Try flattening that one with your shoe!

* **Neatest trick?** Roaches can flatten themselves to almost the thinness of a piece of paper and slide into tiny cracks in the wall. Their oily coating makes them extra slithery.

* **Best pet?** Australian giant burrowing cockroaches are the size of an adult finger. One fellow in Sydney sells them as pets for \$50 a pair. He says you can go away on vacation and never worry about feeding them. Yeah, but can they fetch your slippers and roll over and play dead?

* **Family ties?** Roaches belong to the same family as grasshoppers and crickets (Orthoptera), but aren't nearly as cute.