



## Freshwater Turtle Care Sheet

**Species name:**

*Testudines*

**Adult size:**

Species dependant

**Lifespan:**

20+ Years

**Breeding age:**

3-5 Years



Freshwater turtles, a diverse group encompassing various species like red-eared sliders, painted turtles, and snapping turtles, thrive in aquatic habitats worldwide. Renowned for their distinctive shells and adaptable nature, these reptiles play vital roles in ecosystems, regulating populations of prey species and serving as indicators of environmental health. With lifespans spanning several decades—typically 20 to 50 years, and sometimes surpassing a century—freshwater turtles exhibit remarkable longevity. Threats such as habitat loss, pollution, and illegal trade pose significant challenges to their survival. Conservation efforts focus on preserving their habitats and implementing sustainable practices to ensure these ancient creatures endure for generations to come.

## Housing:

**Enclosure:** Turtles are semi-aquatic reptiles meaning they require deep water to swim around in and a dry basking area where they can rest and dry themselves off.

The minimum tank size for freshwater turtles varies greatly depending on the species you are buying, as juveniles, most turtles will be happy in a 110L tank.

**Substrate:** Adding Substrate into your aquarium is purely aesthetic, for ease of maintenance a plain bottom is better, you can choose to add sand or gravel but the turtles have no real preference for this.

## Temperature:

Turtles require a basking spot where they can completely dry themselves off and warm up. This spot should be between 29-35°C. The ambient temperature outside the water should be 20-25°C with the temperature dropping down at night to 18-22°C.

The turtles also require heated water, standard tropical temperatures around 21-26°C.

## Lighting:

Your Turtle will require access to UVB lighting 10-12 hours a day to ensure their shell stays strong and it also allows them metabolise essential nutrients. Ensure you are using a 6-10% UVB bulb and replacing it every 6-8months.

## Feeding:

**Diet:** Turtles are not fussy eaters, being omnivores, they will consume almost anything put in front of them. You can offer commercial turtle diets to ensure they get all the nutrients required for them to be healthy, additionally, you can feed treats such as feeder locusts and crickets, or bloodworms and other common aquarium foods.

**Feeding Schedule:** Feed juveniles every day, older individuals can be feed every 2-3 days.



## **Enrichment:**

**Enrichment:** Provide rocks, caves, and artificial plants in your aquarium as enrichment.

It is vital you provide your turtle with a land area which is completely dry to prevent shell rot and allow them to thermoregulate. Typically turtles spend between 30-50% of their time on land basking.

## **Health Care:**

**Health Checks:** Regularly observe your Turtle to see if you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance. If something does not seem right seek professional advice promptly.

**Hygiene:** Keep the enclosure clean, removing waste and uneaten food regularly. Perform partial water changes weekly, removing 25% of the water and replacing it with fresh, dechlorinated tap water.

**Quarantine:** Quarantine new Turtles before introducing them to existing an aquarium to prevent the spread of disease.

Turtles make fascinating pets when provided with the right care. Always do thorough research and consult with a veterinarian for specific advice based on your animals' individual needs.