

INFORMATION

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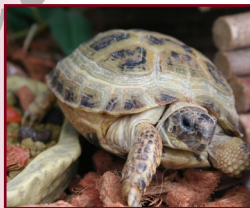


HOUSING:-

An ideal enclosure to house your tortoise indoors is a vivarium measuring at least 36" x 15". Captive bred tortoises do not have to hibernate because the temperature inside its home should be kept constant throughout the year. The habitat should be equipped with adequate lighting to provide UVA and UVB for proper skeletal and shell development. In one corner of the environment a 100W spot lamp should be positioned to provide artificial basking facilities. This should be positioned to provide a basking spot of 90 degrees F (32 degrees C) or so in that section of the habitat. There should also be a hide box located in a corner away from the basking spot to allow the animal a cool dim retreat. While tortoises can handle cool weather quite well, cold combined with wet conditions often leads to disease. They must be kept in an area with a dry retreat.

As a substrate use calci sand & coconut bark and add a few flat rocks for climbing. You might wish to provide a deep substrate for your tortoise so that it may dig.

In warmer weather, you may put your tortoise outside in the garden for a few hours, in a partially shaded pen (rabbit runs are ideal), however, it is important to make sure that the area is not chemically treated and is escape proof. Always provide water and a hide-away so your tortoise can escape the sun if necessary.



Short Guide to Keeping TORTOISES

The tortoise is a living fossil having survived since the dawn of the age of reptiles, 200 million years ago. If basic guidelines are followed, a captive tortoise can live a happy long life of over 50 years!



DIET:-

A high fibre, low protein and calcium rich diet will ensure good digestive tract function and smooth growth. Fruits should not be offered regularly since they contain high sugar levels, which can create digestive problems. Feeding fruits can lead to diarrhoea. A mixture of edible grasses and clovers, dandelions, red leaf lettuce, cabbage, kale, alfalfa and other grass hays, water cress, rose leaves and petals can all be fed to your tortoise. Additional calcium and vitamin supplementation is essential. Powdered calcium with vitaminD3 can be sprinkled on all foods. Provision of a cuttlefish bone which can be gnawed if required is also recommended.

Contrary to belief tortoises do drink! Fresh water must be offered at all times. Your tortoise will also appreciate a 10 minute soak in a bath of tepid water three times a week - this will ensure proper hydration and encourage them to urinate. The bathing dish should be large enough to allow the tortoise to soak in but also shallow enough to protect from drowning.



All livestock at All-In-One Garden Centre have a 7 day guarantee. A valid receipt is required.