

aquatic turtle care sheet



habitat

Appropriate size habitat, at least a 40 gallon breeder tank with a screened lid so the turtle can't escape. A good rule of thumb is 10 gallons per inch of turtle; adult turtles will require more room. House adult aquatic turtles alone and do not house different turtle species together. Slate, rock, or a large smooth gravel, too large to eat, is optional; water for swimming area; some aquatic turtles require a shallow area they can rest in the water with their head sticking out. Red ears require a turtle dock area to bask out of the water. Other turtles require dry land areas outside of the water. Create slopes for easy entry and exit.



lighting

UVB rays with full spectrum lighting for 10-12 hours a day is required. Incandescent lighting is needed for basking area.



temperature

Temperature gradient (95°F for the warm end/basking area and 75°F for the cool end/ water) recommend radiant heat; use an incandescent light or ceramic heater as primary heat source.



diet

Map & Asian leaf: live comet goldfish, earthworms, mealworms, bloodworms, snails and crickets.
Painted wood & red ear: dark, leafy green veggies and finely chopped veggies. Red ears also benefit from comet goldfish, earthworm. These aquatic turtles need a pelleted commercial diet.

shopping list

- appropriately sized habitat
- substrate
- commercial aquatic turtle food
- cricket food
- cricket keeper
- treats
- uvb lighting
- heat fixture
- heat light
- under tank heater
- vitamin and calcium supplement
- book about aquatic turtles

fun facts

average size

5 to 11 inches long, depending on the species

average life span

20 to 40+ years

misc. information

turtles do not like frequent handling and may bite when frightened

for more information or to see other care sheets, visit us online

