



Leopard Tortoise

(Stigmochelys pardalis)

Facts:

Average adult size: **14 to 16 inches**

Average life span: **up to 50+ years with proper care**

Diet: **Herbivore**



Leopard Tortoises are beautiful black and yellow tortoises with intricate spotted patterns on their shells.

Will reach adult size in 20-30 years, under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your reptile grows.

Feeding & Nutrition:

Diet

- High fiber and calcium, low protein and fat needed to ensure good digestive tract function.
- Dark green leafy vegetables, squash, carrots, etc.; fruit should be given sparingly as a treat.
- Commercial tortoise diet, but should be no more than 25% of the diet.
- **Never feed: Rhubarb, Beans of any kind, dog food, pasta.**

Feeding

- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times. Some tortoises have a tendency to go to the bathroom in their water bowl, so expect to clean and disinfect this daily.
- Feed tortoises daily; finely chop vegetables.
- Sprinkle food with calcium supplement daily and a multi-vitamin supplement once or twice a week.
- Discard vegetables and fruits not eaten within 24 hours.

Housing:

- **Size** - Indoor enclosure should be at least 36"x12"; outdoor enclosure should be at least 48"x48" with a secure screened cover to allow sunshine but provide protection, with walls high enough that the tortoise can't escape and buried at least 12" into the ground, as tortoises will dig.
- **Habitat** - Keep habitat arid and dry, with shaded areas to escape direct sunlight. Humid climates may need a dehumidifier; cool climates require supplemental heating. Provide a hiding area, such as a cave or hide box filled with additional substrate. Maintain less than 60% humidity.
- **Substrate** - Tortoises are known for eating substrate. Use something that is digestible such as alfalfa pellets; substrate should be deep enough for the tortoise to burrow. Don't use coarse substrates such as sand or gravel that can scratch the shell.
- **Temperature** - Temperature gradient (95°F for the warm end and 75°F for the cool end); recommend using an incandescent light or ceramic heater as primary heat source.
- **Lighting** - Providing UVB lighting for 12 to 14 hours a day is required.
- Same-species tortoises can be kept together, but do not house different tortoise species

Note: The information in this Care Guide is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

Care Guide



together.

Habitat Maintenance

- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the habitat at least once a week: place tortoise in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all traces of bleach smell; dry the tank and furnishings completely and add clean substrate.

Care:

Grooming & Hygiene

- Weekly water soaks with water level no deeper than the mid-point between the bottom of the tortoise's shell and its top.

Health

- Active and alert
- Eats regularly
- Healthy shell
- Clear, bright eyes
- Healthy skin
- Clear nose and vent

Normal Behavior

- Active, friendly and outgoing
- Will become tame with gentle handling and time; move slowly around tortoises to avoid startling them.

Recommended Supplies:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Size Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> UVB Fixture and Bulb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Calcium Supplement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin Supplement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food/Water Dish | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hide | <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity Gauge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Fixture and Bulb | |

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