



Semi-Aquatic Turtle

(Map, Red Ear, and Painted)

Facts:

Average adult size: **5 to 13 inches long, depending on species**
 Average life span: **20 to 40+ years with proper care, depending on species**
 Diet: **Juvenile - carnivore**
Adult - omnivore



Will reach adult size in 1 to 2 years, depending on species and under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your turtle grows.

Species Sizes:

Eastern Painted	5 to 8 in	Spotted Turtle	3.5 to 5 in
Red Ear Slider	5 to 8 in	Peninsular Cooter	5 to 13 in
Yellow-bellied Slider	5 to 13 in	Red-bellied Cooter	5 to 13 in
Map	5 to 8 in	Hieroglyphic River Cooter	5 to 13 in

Feeding & Nutrition:

Diet

- Pelleted commercial diet.
- Commercial turtle treats and freeze-dried krill may be given as treats.
- Dark, leafy green veggies and finely chopped vegetables. They also benefit from comet goldfish, earthworms and insects as treats.

Feeding

- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times.
- Feed daily; need to be fed in water to eat.
- Consider a separate feeding tank as aquatic turtles are messy eaters.

Housing:

- **Size** - Appropriately sized 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.
- **Habitat** - turtles drink the water they swim in, so it needs to be changed frequently.
- **Substrate** - Slate, rock or gravel that is 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 and they all require a turtle dock area to bask out of the water. Create basking areas for easy entry and exit to water.
- **Temperature** - Temperature gradient (95°F for the warm end/basking area and 75°F for the cool end/water); use a basking bulb and submersible heater as primary heat source.
- **Lighting** - UVB rays with full spectrum lighting for 10 to 12 hours a day is required. Incandescent lighting is needed for basking area.

Habitat Maintenance

- Keep the habitat clean and remove uneaten food and feces right away.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the habitat at least once a week: place turtle in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all traces of bleach smell.

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



- Add clean, dechlorinated water, with a temperature range from 70 to 75°F before returning turtle.

Care:

Grooming & Hygiene

- Aquatic turtles occasionally replace their individual scutes as they grow.

Health

- Active and alert
- Eats regularly
- Healthy, hard shell with no lesions
- Clear, bright eyes with no swelling
- Healthy skin with no sores
- Clear nose and vent

Normal Behavior

- Turtles do not like frequent handling and may bite when frightened.
- Aquatic turtles are excellent swimmers.

Recommended Supplies:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Size Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Basking Area (ledge, log, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Food | <input type="checkbox"/> UVB Fixture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treats | <input type="checkbox"/> UVB Bulb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Fixture | <input type="checkbox"/> Submersible Heater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basking Bulb | <input type="checkbox"/> Under Tank Heater |

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