

International Center for Veterinary Services □□□□□□□□□□

Turtle Care Basics for Pet Owners

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1. Size of tank:

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a. Turtle should occupy less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the tank's horizontal space

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2. Water Depth - 3x the length of the turtle (measured from head to tail)

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3. Water and environmental temperature:

□□□□□□ 23-27°C □ 75-80°F

4. Island – should have an area where turtle can dock outside of water (flat stone, etc.)

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5. Adding new water: Add small amounts of water at appropriate temperature

- 23-27°C (75-80°F)-23-27°C (75-80°F)

6. Calcium and Vitamins

a. Vitamin D supplement – use long-term until adult, 2x each week

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b.3-4x each week, sprinkle on food

3-4

I Calcium

ii Vitamin D

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iii Should be low-phosphorous or non-phosphorous

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7.UVA-UVB Light Bulb (full spectrum):

UVA-UVB□□□□□□□

a. Position 10-12 inches (25-30 cms) away from turtle for 10-12 hours per day

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b. Do not shine through glass or plastic (plexi-glass) as UV rays will be blocked

UV

c. Replace light bulb after six-months

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8. Diet:

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- a. Vegetables – beet greens, green outer leaves of cabbage, Chinese cabbage, collard greens, kohl rabi, endive, kale, watercress, bok choy, spinach, etc.

[illegible]

- b. Majority of diet should be whole foods: earthworms, slugs, feeder fish, crickets, waxworms, superworms

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9. Salmonella:

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- a. Turtles, reptiles, lizards may carry salmonella

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- b. Practice good hand hygiene (washing hands thoroughly) after touching and handling

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c. Keep away from small children (may put in mouth, touch eyes/lips after handling) and immune-compromised individuals

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