

Basking turtles



PROFILE

Common Name: **terrapins, sliders and cooters**

Latin Name: ***Ocadia spp*
Trachemys spp
*Pseudemys spp***

Native To: **North America, East Asia**

Size: **M:4-5" F:8-12"**

Life Span: **20-30 years**

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Found in any body of fresh water in many parts of North America and East Asia. Can tolerate a wide range of water quality and temperatures. From streams and rivers to lakes and ponds.

Vivarium Size:

We would recommend a 24x12x12" glass tank for your basking turtle species. If a male, you will not need to upgrade the tank, but if it's a female you will need a minimum size of 36x18x18. A basking spot and hiding places should be provided for your turtle. Internal or external filtration is a must as turtles are messy eaters and can produce a lot of ammonia.

Substrate:

A good quality aquarium sand or small diameter gravel (2-3mm) would be an excellent substrate. A basking site where the turtle can climb out of the water and completely dry is essential as is enrichment by way of rocks, logs and other ornaments. Fake plants can also be used as cover which will make the animal feel more secure.

Food and Water:

Food for any species of basking turtle is very simple as they are the ultimate omnivore. All manner of dried and prepared turtle specific diet will be accepted happily. Live foods, small pieces of fish, earthworms, snails and other crustaceans will also be taken. Along with any live plants, floating plants or diced salad put in for them. The overall diet should contain 40-50% protein. As a semi aquatic turtle, any basking species of turtle will require a mostly aquatic environment with the water depth no more than three times the length of the turtles shell.

Heat/Light Requirements:

UV lighting is essential for these animals and should be provided 6% UVB 10-12 hours per day. A basking spot running for 10-12 hours per day is also essential.

Below are the ideal temperatures for all species of basking turtles, all of which can be thermostatically controlled:

Day (cool end): 24-26°C

Basking (warm end): 30-35°C

Water: 20-24°C

Night: 20-24°C

Please note that this care sheet is only for your basic husbandry knowledge and that it is always recommended that you do further reading.

FURTHER READING

www.reptilesmagazine.com

Any Problems?

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

Or email us at shirley_reptiles@live.co.uk

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