

# Horsefield Tortoise Care Sheet



## PROFILE

*Common Name:* **Horsefield tortoise**

*Latin Name:* **Testudo horsfieldii**

*Native To:* **Russia and central europe**

*Size:* **5 – 6"**

*Life Span:* **50 – 80 years**

## HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

### ***Environment:***

Dry and hot steppes found throughout central Europe.

### ***Vivarium Size:***

For our Horsefield tortoises, we recommend the use of a tortoise table at least 34" long and 18" wide. We recommend a table over a wooden vivarium because of the increased ventilation. Tortoises need this extra ventilation to reduce the risk of increased humidity that can lead to health problems.

### ***Substrate:***

Compressed grass or straw pellets or a good quality dry substrate which produces minimal dust would be the preferred substrates. This will give the tortoises an opportunity to dig and climb as they would naturally.

### ***Food and Water:***

Horsefield tortoises are herbivorous and the majority of their food comes from leafy greens and weeds. Some fruit and drier grasses can be used

also. Please see our own recommended tortoise food list for more information on edible plants. Prepared tortoise foods can also be used to add some variety to the tortoise diet as well as some flowers and blooms.

### ***Heat/Light Requirements:***

Horsefield tortoises originate from very hot and dry climates and their captive environments should simulate this as closely as possible. They will require full spectrum UV exposure of 10-12% preferably with a reflector so to minimise UV loss. They will also need high daytime temperatures at one end of the enclosure to create a suitable heat gradient.

Listed below are the ideal temperatures that you will need to replicate for your tortoise:

Hot spot: 32 - 34°C

Cool end: 24 - 26°C

Night temperatures: 22 - 24°C

### **FURTHER READING:**

[www.reptilesmagazine.com](http://www.reptilesmagazine.com)

### ***Any Problems?***

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

Or email us at [shirley\\_reptiles@live.co.uk](mailto:shirley_reptiles@live.co.uk)

**Shirley Aquatics  
Becketts Farm  
Alcester Road  
Wythall  
Birmingham  
B47 6AJ**

