

Musk Turtle Care Sheet



PROFILE

Common Name: **Musk Turtle**

Latin Name: ***Sternotherus odoratus***

Native To: **Eastern US**

Size: **4 – 4.5"**

Life Span: **30 - 50 years**

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Inhabiting a large part of south east Canada to eastern America from rivulets and streams to ponds and lakes.

Vivarium Size:

Being an almost entirely aquatic species, your turtles will need a more aquatic enclosure. For a single specimen a 24x12x12" aquarium will meet its needs. For a pair you would need a 36x18x12" aquarium.

These turtles will still require a basking spot and should be able to exit the water. Water depth should be approximately three times the length of the turtles shell.

Substrate:

Fine aquarium sand or smooth river pebbles will be needed to aid in movement ("walking" along the bottom of the tank) Bogwood, live plants and larger rocks are also good choices for enrichment.

Food and Water:

Musk turtles are omnivorous in the wild and that diet should be replicated in a captive setting, that being said, captive turtles do tend to be more carnivorous. Foods can include but are not limited to earthworms, mealworms, crickets, locust, chopped mussel, chopped fish, live or frozen bloodworm and prepared foods. A variety of plants will also be eaten, including duckweed.

Heat/Light Requirements:

A basking spot should be provided for your turtles and 5% UV exposure 10-12 hours a day. A heater for the water and filtration will be needed as turtles are messy eaters.

Below are the ideal temperatures for your common musk turtle:

Hot spot: 28 - 30°C

Cool end: 24 - 28°C

Water: 23 - 26°C

FURTHER READING:

www.reptilesmagazine.com

Any Problems?

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

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