

New Guinea Snapping Turtle care sheet



PROFILE

Common Name: New Guinea snapping turtle, New Guinea stream turtle

Latin Name: *Elseya schultzei*

Native To: New Guinea

Size: 8 – 11"

Life Span: 20-30 years

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Found throughout out streams, rivers, and lakes in New Guinea. Enjoys deep water as the snapper is a capable swimmer.

Vivarium Size:

A large tank will need to be provided for this species, 36x15x15 would be minimum for an adult specimen. But as these turtles are active swimmers, the more room you can provide, the better.

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:

New Guinea snapping turtles are mostly predatory and in the wild they will enjoy fish, invertebrates, molluscs,

and carrion. This can be replicated in a captive setting and can include prepared turtle diets, dried fish and shrimp, fresh fish, invertebrates, and insects.

As a semi aquatic animal, this 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 12-14 hours per day. A basking spot running for 10-12 hours per day is also essential.

Below are the ideal temperatures for the New Guinea snapping turtle, 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.austinsturtlepage.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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