

Mediterranean Tortoise Care



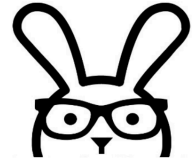
- ***Testudo spp*** (Hermann's, Russian/Horsefields, Spur/Greek, Marginated)
- Lifespan: up to 150 years (species dependant)
- Puberty: 9-12 years
- Don't need a male to lay eggs
- Solitary animals

Enclosure

- Minimum 1.2x2m for a solo tortoise
- Areas to hide, things to climb over, digging areas
- If kept outside need a heated area, insulated and contains suitable UV lighting
 - Ensure escape and predator proof area
 - Ensure flooring under substrate (such as wire mesh) to prevent them from digging out
- Substrate: sterilised soil or similar is best
 - Avoid wood chips, sawdust shavings, pellets and newspaper
- Temp:
 - basking 32-34°C
 - Important for digestion
 - Not always possible naturally in NZ summer so providing basking area outside is recommended
 - Cool end 22-24°C
 - Temp not to drop less than 12-14°C at night
 - Can lead to immunosuppression
 - May need to bring them in at night to provide these temperatures
 - If needing to provide heat during the night do not use a light emitting heat source
 - Using a temperature gun to check daily is recommended rather than relying on thermostats
 - Also recommended to have a thermometer at tortoise height at the hot and cool end of the enclosure
- UVB
 - Arcadia proT5 10% (minimum)
 - Changed every 6 months
 - Distance from tortoise will be specified by manufacturer
 - 12hr per day during summer
- Humidity: 30-50%
 - Provide humid hides, especially important for those that are unable to dig underground (where it is more humid)
 - Have a hygrometer to measure within enclosure

Diet

- Herbivores → weed/plant based diet as much as possible
 - www.thetortoisetable.org.uk/
 - Avoid too many fruits or vegetables
- Chalk blocks/cuttlefish bone ad lib in enclosure
- Reptile multivitamin 3x a week of all food is suggested
 - Sprinkled onto food
 - E.g. Repashy Calcium Plus or Flukers Reptile Liquid
- Dish of water large enough for the tortoise to get in and drink, but shallow enough that they can climb out if they fall in
- Feeding off a slate can keep beak down
- Soak 3x a week in warm water for 15-20min



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Hibernation

- Only if you have owned the tortoise for >12 months and it is not sick or a juvenile (>3yr)
- Vet check prior is recommended