



Mud Turtle



Origin: North, Central, and South America

Size: 3-7 inches-depending on species

Life Span: 45 years

Heat and Lighting:

- A UVB 5.0 bulb is necessary-place near the basking spot
- Water temperature should be 75-79 F with a basking spot on an area out of the water of 86-92 F. Water temperature can be maintained with an aquarium heater.
- Basking light can be turned off at night but leave the aquarium heater on.

Tank setup:

- Minimum 25 gallon aquarium for one turtle and 40 gallon for two. Traditional glass aquariums can be used. Stock tanks can also work well
- A basking spot should extend out of the water for your turtle to climb up on.
- Place rocks or other perches in the water so the turtle can get on and reach air more easily.
- No substrate is necessary on the bottom of the tank

Diet:

- Mud turtles are omnivores. They enjoy a variety of food.
- Turtle protein pellets can be offered, as well as a variety of insects such as crickets, earthworms, dubia roaches, frozen bloodworms, superworms, and small feeder fish
- Mud turtles enjoy a variety of greens such as collard greens, dandelion greens, kale, red and green lettuces (not iceberg), and algae wafers.
- Sprinkle greens with calcium powder 2-3 times per week

Water and Filtration:

- A filter is needed to maintain water quality. If the filter has a strong flow, use a rock or other object to break the current.
- Every 1-2 weeks, change at least 30% of the water

Temperament:

- Mud turtles are fairly docile but handling stresses them out. They may secrete a musk when handled
- Try tong feeding if you would like to interact with your mud turtle.