


 50 years

 11-14 inches

 Intermediate

 70-90° F

 Leafy Greens, Vegetables



Red footed tortoises are one of the most popular pet tortoises. They have a great temperament, are simple to care for, and remain a size that most people can easily handle. Red foos are an excellent choice for a first-time tortoise owner. These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

TANK SET UP

The preferred method for keeping red footed tortoises is in a tortoise hutch, whether purchased or home-made. Any enclosure for an adult will need sturdy walls at least 16" high. They are not usually burrowing or digging tortoises, making them quite easy to keep. Glass or see through walls should not be used, as they may try to keep going through the other side, and can tip themselves over.

SUBSTRATE

Red foos do well on many different types of substrates. Cypress mulch, such as the Forest Floor bedding, and a mixture of coconut fiber, peat moss, or EcoEarth make good choices. A few large flat rocks, situated under the basking light will give them a heated area, and help file the tortoises' nails down.

TEMPERATURE

Red footed tortoises kept indoors do well with an ambient temperature of 70-80°F. They should also have a basking area of 90°F. Red foos are highly tolerant of temperature variances, and should not need a red bulb at night. Young tortoises should always have an under-tank heat pad or a heat bulb over a flat rock, simulating a heat pad.

LIGHTING

Red foos need full spectrum UVA and UVB lighting. Use the wattage basking bulb appropriate for the size enclosure the tortoise is in, and keep both basking and UVB lights on for 10-12 hours per day. Use a red bulb at night if needed.

HUMIDITY

The humidity red foot tortoises need is quite high, and should remain between 70% - 80%. You can achieve this by adding a moist, mossy area to the cool side of the enclosure, keeping a full water dish, and misting the enclosure every day. Once a week, soak your tortoise in lukewarm water; this will serve as a bath and ensure proper hydration.

FEEDING

Red foos are omnivores, as vegetables and greens should make up approximately 40% of their diet. Fruit should make up another 40%, and the remaining 20% should be protein, such as mealworms, waxworms, and cooked chicken or salmon make excellent choices. It is important not to feed them too much protein.

ACCESSORIES

Place some flat stones in the enclosure under the heat/UVB bulbs to act as natural heat stones. Do not put steep, climbing ramps in the tank, as tortoises can fall easily and may not be able to turn right-side up.