

 50 years

 7-9 inches

 Beginner

 80-100° F

 Leafy Greens, Vegetables



Russian tortoises are one of the most readily available tortoise species. They stay small when full grown, approximately 7"-9" as adults, making them easy to care for with limited space. They are also more active than other tortoises, and do well in pairs. 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 Russian tortoises is in a tortoise hutch, whether purchased or home-made. Two adult tortoises can be kept in an enclosure 3 ft x 5 ft, with 12" high walls.

SUBSTRATE

Russian tortoises do well on a mixture of coconut fiber bedding, Repti-bark, or forest floor bedding. You are trying to achieve a "ground" feel with at least a few inches of substrate.

TEMPERATURE

Russian tortoises should be kept at an ambient temperature of 80°F, with a hot spot of 95 – 100°F. If night time temperatures drop below 65°F, a red light may be used.

LIGHTING

Russian tortoises need full spectrum UVA and UVB lighting. Use the wattage basking bulb appropriate for the size enclosure the Russian tortoise is in, and keep both the basking and UVB lights on 10-12 hours per day.

HUMIDITY

The humidity of Russian tortoises should remain between 30%-50%. You can achieve this by keeping a shallow water dish full and clean at all times, and providing a moist area with coco-fiber and moss for the tortoise to cool off and hydrate. Once a week, soak your tortoise in lukewarm water. This will serve as a bath and ensure proper hydration.

FEEDING

The tortoise should be fed a diet primarily made up of leafy greens, kale, collard greens, turnip greens, dandelions, and grasses. They are voracious eaters, and will eat almost any leafy green or vegetable offered to them.

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.