
 50-70 years

 100 pounds

 Intermediate

 80-110° F

 Dark Greens



The sulcata tortoise is one of the most beloved tortoises in the world. Its docile nature and gentle personality make it a family favorite. The sulcata may grow to 100 pounds at full size, however, it does take many, many years for that to happen. Any tortoise is a long-term commitment, and should be considered carefully before bringing home.

These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

TANK SET UP

A tortoise table or large square enclosure works best for housing when the tortoise is young. If using a glass aquarium, it's a good idea to have plants surrounding the inside of the tank, as the tortoise can see its reflection in the glass, keep going, and tip over.

BEDDING

Sulcatas need to stay in an arid environment, so use a substrate that stays dry; alfalfa pellet, hay, or carpet. If using Eco Earth or Peat Moss, keep dry.

TEMPERATURE

An ambient temperature of 80-90° F and a basking area of 100-110° F are ideal. Depending on the size of the tortoise and the temperature of your home, you may want to use a red heat bulb at night. For very young tortoises, you may want the heat somewhat higher (80-100° F).

LIGHTING

Sulcatas need UVA and UVB full spectrum lighting. Place the lighting over the hot area of the tank or over the tank heat pad, along with flat rock to act as a natural heat rock. Keep sulcatas warm and dry. Sulcatas also enjoy being outside in the sunlight while grazing!

HUMIDITY

Sulcatas prefer low humidity. Soak the sulcata in a shallow container of water once or twice a week when young, then place back in their tank after soaking. This will ensure the tortoise stays hydrated.

FEEDING

Sulcata tortoises are grazers, and will eat most grasses and hays. For small tortoises, cut the greens into smaller pieces. They enjoy Bermuda grass, timothy hay, hibiscus flowers, cactus, turnip greens, and more; get be creative! Sulcatas do not eat high amounts of sugary fruits, however, occasional treats such as bananas, strawberries, or apples are fine in moderation.

CLEANING

Sulcata tortoises are easy to keep clean. Spot clean the tank and wash the water dishes daily. Deep clean the tank every week with a gentle cleanser.