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Leopard Tortoise Care sheet

Leopard Tortoises are large tortoises, originating from Africa.

Do not underestimate the space and resources needed to look after these tortoises they grow very large.

Housing

Table tops as Juveniles not vivariums!, hides should be provided for security, artificial plants , cardboard boxes, plant pots, logs can be used they should be in the warm and cooler ends.

Adults will require a shed that is insulated along with heat and UVB/UVA lighting they require adequate space indoor and outdoor during the summer months

Substrate suitable for these tortoises include, newspaper, Astroturf or pure topsoil can be used. It is important that the substrate you choose cannot be eaten as this can cause impactions and be fatal.

DO NOT USE woodchips or sand.

The enclosure should be cleaned out at least once weekly with a suitable disinfectant and spot cleaned daily.

Temperatures and Humidity.

Basking area is required of 30-40 oc

Cool end should be maintained at 25 oc

Background heat can be provided with a tubular heater especially when adults and housed in larger enclosures a thermostat should be set for overnight temperatures no lower than 21 oc

Temperatures should be checked daily for max and min readings

Humidity less than <50%

Lighting

Must be exposed to UVB/UVA light

12 hours per day

All UVB/UVA bulbs should be checked regularly for their UV output and should be changed following manufacturer guidelines this can be every 6 – 12 months depending on brand.

It is also important to expose your tortoise to natural UV during the summer months and having an outer enclosure is essential for the long term health of your tortoise.

Companions

In general they are happier being solitary; adults can be maintained in single sex groups of up to five in suitable accommodation. Should breeding be required the males can be exposed to the females during the summer months.

Salmonella

All reptiles can potentially carry Salmonella

However it is rarely a cause of illness in reptiles and treatment is not required

It can be transmitted to people (especially young children or those who are immune-compromised) so good health hygiene after handling the reptile is important.

Health Checks

We recommend annual health checks every year as well as faecal checks every 6 months.

Feed

Largely Grasses and hay with vegetation such as weeds making up the remainder of the diet.

Supplementation is important and is recommended to add in to their diets, mineral powder with high calcium is required. It is important to ensure the phosphorus content is low.

Cuttlefish is often fed to tortoises and although it is to be encouraged it should not be relied upon as a calcium source.

50% of the diet should be made up of hay and grass but other dietary items include:

- Dandelions
- Clover
- Sow thistle
- Honey suckle
- Sedum
- Chick weed
- Dock leaves
- Plantain
- Parsley
- Watercress

Feeds in Moderation

- Spring greens
- Lettuce
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Spinach
- Carrot tops
- Rocket
- Peas

Insurance

We recommend that you take out pet insurance, for a monthly fee your pet can receive the best treatment at an affordable cost.

Tortoise Health Care Plan

This is the opposite of insurance but includes faecal checks and health checks with our exotic veterinary nurse.

Includes discounts off consultation and diagnostics.

For more information please ask a member of staff or look on our website.