

Mediterranean Tortoise



OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Testudo*
- Origin: Mediterranean; Europe, North Africa and Western Asia
- Ease of Care: Beginner
- Potential Adult Size: 20-35cm (Marginated tortoise up to 35cm)
- Life Span: Up to 80 years+
- Behaviour: Diurnal
- Diet: Greens, weeds, and Dry Food
- Handling: Beginner

TOP TIPS

- ✓ Use a Large Vivarium or Tortoise Table to accommodate the needs of the species.
- ✓ Allow for a few inches of substrate to enable the species to burrow.
- ✓ Provide a sturdy water bowl or Tortoise Pool for the Tortoise to hydrate if needed.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED



- Housing: Vivarium/Tortoise Table
- Heating: Heat Bulb
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Tortoise Bedding, HabiStat Repti-Turf
- Water: HabiStat Tortoise Pool

ENVIRONMENT



Tortoise Table Setup



Heating

Mediterranean Tortoises are diurnal animals and require a suitable light and heat gradient in their terrarium.

Background Temp: 21°C-26°C (69°F-79°F)

HOT Spot: 30°C (86°F)

Night-Time Temp: 21°C (70°F)

Provide a warmer/hot area towards the one side of the enclosure, using an overhead heat source to offer a heat gradient. Use an Arcadia Pro Ceramic Lamp Holder & Bracket (RADCHP) with a HabiStat Heat Bulb (HBB100) running in conjunction with a HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (HTDW).

Dimming thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also

known as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the Tortoise.

For a Tortoise Table, using the Arcadia 2nd Generation UV Basking Lamp 100w (RSMA100E27) will provide both heat and UV needs throughout the day.

Maintain night-time temperatures using a HabiStat Heat Mat (HHM**) running through a HabiStat Mat Stat (HTMW1) if they are dropping too low.

Check temperatures regularly, using a reliable dual thermometer and hygrometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

DIET & WATER

Mediterranean Tortoises are herbivorous; offer a varied range of weeds, greens, flowers, and complementary pellet-based Tortoise food (HSTFF200). Feed your Mediterranean Tortoise during the day when it is most active.,

Always provide a source of fresh water; the HabiStat Tortoise Pool (HRRDTPM) has a ramp, which provides easy access for the Tortoise.

Misting the enclosure as needed will also allow for the maintenance and regulation of the enclosure humidity.

Lighting

In captivity, use the Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 12% (RARTP24R) on top of the mesh of the Terrarium. This will supply realistic UVB levels within the enclosure.

Ensure that it is fitted correctly and within the manufacturers recommend distances.

Substrate and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your enclosure, but we recommend the following as examples:

- HabiStat Tortoise Bedding (HSTB10), HabiStat Repti-Turf (HSHF10)
- Wood/branches/vines for climbing, hiding, and sleeping on.

SUPPLEMENTATION

Mediterranean Tortoises need additional supplementation in the form of a calcium and multi-vitamin powder such as Arcadia Earth Pro-A (RAREP100) and Arcadia Earth Pro Calcium Mg (RAREPCM80). Follow the on-pack instructions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tortoise possess a tough horny beak instead of teeth. This can be quite sharp with some tortoise so take care not to put your fingers too close.

A group of tortoise is called a "creep".

Each section of a tortoises shell is called a scute, the amount of scutes a tortoise has stays the same throughout its whole life and they grow with the rest of the tortoise.

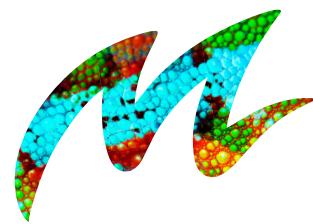
HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Mediterranean Tortoise healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Change old water for fresh water	Spot clean	Check vents on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely
Weekly	Disinfect water bowl or dish	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build up and to allow any dirty bedding to be removed	Wipe down glass with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Full substrate change	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling your Mediterranean Tortoise, their enclosure and any other equipment.



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