

Red Eared Slider



Red eared sliders are among the popular species of reptile kept as pets. With proper care they make good pets. It is important to remember that red eared sliders can live upwards of 30 years and will grow to the size of an average dinner plate. Keeping red eared sliders as a pet is a long term commitment that should be considered before purchasing.

Adult Size 6-14" Females are considerably larger than males.

Life Span 20-40+ years

Habitat

- Hatchling and juvenile red eared sliders need a minimum of a 15 gal aquarium with a sufficient filter. Water depth should be at least twice the length of the turtle's shell. There should be a land portion (or turtle dock) that is approximately 25% of the aquarium.
- An adult red eared slider will require a minimum of a 40 gallon breeder aquarium, with a strong filter.
- The water should be changed weekly.

Temperature

- 78-80F water temperature, this can be attained with an aquarium heater.
- Basking temperature approximately 85F, a heat lamp should be placed above the land portion (or turtle dock).

Lighting

- UVB is essential for the long term health of all turtles. A 5.0% UVB neon tube should be placed over the length of the aquarium. UVB will allow red eared sliders to process calcium and is essential to healthy eyes.
- Lighting should be provided 8-10 hours per day.

Substrate

- Gravel that is large enough that it cannot accidentally be ingested.
- The gravel should be siphoned weekly to avoid a buildup of waste in the gravel bed.

Nutrition

- Red eared sliders are omnivorous. Their diet should consist of a well balanced turtle stick, vegetables, fish (live or canned) and insects. Providing a cuttlebone or sepia bone will aid in maintain proper calcium levels