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# Russian Tortoise

*Testudo graeca*

## Care Sheet

### Average Size

8 - 10 inches long

### Average Lifespan

50+ years

### Diet

Russian Tortoises should be fed grasses and mixed vegetables daily. They can be fed a variety of leafy greens such as turnip greens, collard greens, mustard greens, dandelion greens, hibiscus leaves and flowers, green onions, green beans, zucchini, frozen mixed vegetables, timothy hay, and alfalfa. Fruits should only make up about 10% of their diet.

**Never Feed Lettuce! It contains no nutrition, only water and cellulose.**

### Feeding

Russian Tortoises should be fed grasses and mixed vegetables daily. Dust food with calcium powder daily, & a multivitamin once a week.

### Housing

**Habitat** - Russian tortoises are found throughout Russia, Ukraine, Pakistan. Their natural habitat varies and they can be found in open forests, grasslands, and deserts. This is a terrestrial species which prefers a dry climate and a suitable place to hide. Russian Tortoises can be kept alone or in groups. Breeding males may become aggressive and caution should be taken when housing together.

**Size** - A single adult must have a minimum cage size of 36" Long x 18" Deep X 16" High.

**Substrate** - A variety of substrates can be used. Fir bark or dry coconut fiber are most commonly used. A sandy soil mix of 50% peat moss and 50% sand is also used with great success.

**Temperature** - A temperature gradient of 75° – 85° F should be provided with a basking area of 95° F. Nighttime temperatures can be allowed to drop to 65° F.

**Humidity** - Humidity levels should be between 30% - 50%.

**Watering** - Russian Tortoises require a water bowl large enough to fit their entire body. The water bowl should be changed daily.

**Lighting** - Since this is a diurnal species, it requires two light bulbs. One is the heat lamp which also emits UVA. The second is a UVB lamp. The UVB lamp will specifically say UVB on the box. If the box doesn't say UVB, it's not UVB.

**Plant and Fish bulbs are not UVB bulbs.**



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