



Red-Eared Slider

Trachemys scripta elegans

Care Sheet

Average Size

8 - 12 inches long

Average Lifespan

50+ years

Diet

Red-Eared Sliders are omnivores. As juveniles their diet is higher protein and more vegetation based as adults. Red-Eared Slider diets should consist of pelleted turtle foods, minnows, worms, and vegetables such as zucchini, squash, collard greens, beet leaves, endive, kale, escarole, mustard greens, turnip greens, dandelion flowers/greens and some fruits.

Feeding

Feeding should be daily with all they can eat in 15 minutes. Remove all food remaining after that time, except for greens.

Housing

Habitat - Red-Eared Sliders are native to North America. They live in and near ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers. Red-Eared Sliders are communal and can be kept together in an adequately sized enclosure. Red-Eared Sliders are common carriers of Salmonella. Always wash hands thoroughly after handling.

Size - Red-Eared Sliders are aquatic turtles. Hatchling turtles can be kept in 20-gallon tanks with an adult requiring a 50 - 75-gallon tank. The tank should be 80% water and 20% land. The land area is required to allow the turtle to dry its shell completely.

Substrate - On the water portion, no substrate is required. Most keepers prefer rocks or large gravel to help keep feces from floating. The land portion can be a latch-on style turtle dock. Serious keeper prefer to use sand or coconut fiber on the land portion to allow natural burrowing and digging.

Temperature - Red-Eared Sliders need a basking spot of 85° - 90°F and a water temperature of 70° - 75°F.

Watering - Since Red-Eared Sliders are aquatic, they do not need a water bowl. It is recommended to use a filter that is twice as strong as the tank size. When running an adequate size filter, tank water should be changed weekly. When using an under-sized filter or no filter, water should be changed every other day.

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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