



Hermann's Tortoise Care Sheet

Species Name:

Testudo Hermanni

Adult Size:

15-20cm

Lifespan:

60-70 Years

Breeding Age:

12 Years



Hermann's tortoises, *Testudo hermanni*, are charming reptiles native to southern Europe, prized for their small size, vibrant colours, and gentle demeanour. With distinctive yellow and black markings on their domed shells, they're cherished as pets and symbols of longevity. These herbivorous tortoises graze on a diet of leafy greens, flowers, and occasional fruits, thriving in warm, dry habitats like Mediterranean scrublands and grasslands. Despite their popularity, they face threats from habitat loss and illegal collection. Your Tortoise will come with some important paper work called a make sure you keep this somewhere safe!

Housing:

Enclosure: Provide a spacious enclosure to allow your tortoise to manoeuvre. Ideally a wooden vivarium or tortoise table up to 4ft.

Substrate: Dry substrates such as sand or soil can be used to mimic the tortoise's natural environment, always use reptile safe sand, ingestion of sand can cause impaction, most reptile sands are designed to be digestible in small amounts.

Temperature:

Maintain a basking spot temperature of 32°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 27-30°C.

Use a heat source like a basking light and a heat mat for heating.

Night time temperatures can drop to 18-23°C.

Lighting:

Provide a UVB light source (10-12%) for at least 10-12 hours a day to support calcium metabolism and overall health.

Diet:

Feeding: Offer a varied diet of leafy greens, vegetables, and fruits. They will also eat commercial tortoise pellets.

Supplements: Dust food with calcium and vitamin supplements 2-3 times a week.



Humidity and Hydration:

A humidity of 40-60% should be maintained.

Provide a shallow dish for drinking water and bathing. Tortoises can get very messy! Feel free to take them out of their vivarium and bathe them yourself, make sure the bath water only goes up to the base of the shell and don't use any soaps.

Scrub the shell gently to avoid any damage.

Enrichment and Handling:

Place hiding spots, rocks, and branches for climbing to create a stimulating environment.

Provide a secure hide for them to retreat and feel safe.

Health Considerations:

Regularly monitor for signs of illness, such as lethargy, changes in appetite, or difficulty shedding.

Quarantine new reptiles before introducing them to existing enclosures.

Remember that the care requirements for Hermann's Tortoise may vary slightly based on individual needs, so observe your reptiles behaviour and make adjustments accordingly. Always prioritize the well-being and health of your pet by providing a well-maintained and enriched environment.