

THE TORTOISE HUT

LEOPARD TORTOISE CARE SHEET

Breed: Leopard Tortoise
Scientific name: *Stigmochelys pardalis*

Welcome to your new Leopard Tortoise! This care sheet provides guidance on the basic daily care and husbandry needed to help keep your tortoise happy and healthy.

HOUSING

- Provide a minimum enclosure size of 4ft, such as a suitable vivarium or tortoise table. We find a vivarium best to start babies off in.
- Ensure there is plenty of floor space for walking and exploring.
- Provide a secure hide where your tortoise can retreat and rest.
- Keep the enclosure clean, dry and well maintained.

Important: Leopard tortoises grow quite large, so they will need a significantly larger enclosure as they grow. A secure outdoor enclosure during suitable warm weather is also beneficial.

LIGHTING & HEATING

- Use a T5 UVB 12% light.
- Provide a separate suitable basking bulb plugged into a dimming thermostat.
- Lighting should be on for approximately 12 hours per day and switched off at night.
- A deep heat projector or ceramic heat emitter will be needed for additional night-time heating, depending on room temperatures and the tortoise's age.

Always monitor temperatures using reliable thermometers.

TEMPERATURES

Maintain a temperature gradient within the enclosure:

- **Cool end:** 25°C
- **Basking area:** Approximately 35-38°C
- **Night time:** 22-25°C

Make sure your tortoise can move freely between warmer and cooler areas.

FOOD & DIET

Feed once daily, offering a varied, high-fibre diet.

Weeds and natural foods:

- Dandelions
- Plantain
- Clover

- Grasses
- Other suitable edible weeds

Additional variety:

- Lamb's lettuce
- Romaine lettuce
- Crispy Florette salad

Aim to provide plenty of suitable weeds and grasses, with variety throughout the week.

Avoid relying heavily on supermarket salad leaves, as these should not replace a good fibre-rich natural diet.

SUPPLEMENTS

- Sprinkle a small pinch of calcium and D3 powder over food daily, as advised in your supplied care information.
- Avoid excessive supplementation. The appropriate amount and frequency depend on the tortoise's age, diet and UVB exposure.

WATER

- Provide fresh, clean drinking water in a shallow dish every day.
- Make sure the dish is easy to access and cannot trap or overturn your tortoise.
- Replace water whenever it becomes dirty.

BATHING

During the first week:

- Place your tortoise in a shallow container of comfortably lukewarm water for 5–10 minutes every morning.

After the first week:

- Continue bathing once or twice a week.

Use shallow water that allows your tortoise to keep its head comfortably above the surface.

IMPORTANT: Never use oils, creams, polish or any other products on your tortoise's shell. Clean water is all that is needed.

CLEANING & HYGIENE

- Spot-clean dirty areas every couple of days.
- Remove leftover food and faeces regularly.
- Carry out a complete enclosure clean every 4–6 weeks, or sooner if necessary.
- Always provide fresh, clean water.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Keep an eye on your tortoise's:

- Appetite and feeding habits.
- Activity levels and behaviour.
- Eyes, nose and breathing.
- Shell condition and growth.
- Faeces and general condition.

If you notice anything unusual or have concerns about your tortoise's health, contact a reptile-specialist veterinary practice.

USEFUL WEBSITES

For further information and advice:

- www.tortoisetrust.org
- www.tortoisetable.org
- www.tortoisehut.co.uk

NEED HELP OR ADVICE?

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch.

Telephone: 07827224894

Email: torthut@gmail.com

We're always happy to help!

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