



## Aldabra Tortoise Care Sheet

**Species Name:**

*Aldabrachelys gigantea*

**Adult Size:**

550 pounds

**Lifespan:**

80 - 120 Years

**Breeding Age:**

15 Years



Aldabra tortoises are among the largest tortoises in the world, second only to the Galápagos tortoise. Native to the Aldabra Atoll in the Indian Ocean, they can weigh up to 550 pounds and live over 100 years. Known for their massive, domed shells and sturdy, column-like legs, they are herbivores that graze on grasses, leaves, and even small woody plants. Social and curious, they often live in groups and interact with each other in their natural habitat. Aldabra tortoises are considered a vulnerable species due to habitat loss and hunting, making conservation efforts essential to their survival.

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## Housing:

**Enclosure:** Provide a spacious enclosure to allow your tortoise to manoeuvre. Ideally a wooden vivarium or tortoise table up to 4ft. As they grow something larger would be required, likely custom made.

**Substrate:** Use a soil/sand mix to mimic the substrate in their natural environment, and ensure it is moist while they are young to aid their shell health.

## Temperature:

Maintain a basking spot temperature of 29-32°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 22-25°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 tortoise pellets.

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



### **Humidity and Hydration:**

A humidity of 70-80% should be maintained while they are young, adults require 55-65% humidity.

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 Aldabra Tortoises may vary slightly based on individual needs, so observe your reptiles behaviour and make adjustments accordingly. Always prioritise the well-being and health of your pet by providing a well-maintained and enriched environment.