



Marginated Tortoise Care Sheet

Species Name:

Testudo marginata

Adult Size:

30-40cm

Lifespan:

100 Years

Breeding Age:

15-20 Years



Marginated tortoises (*Testudo marginata*) are renowned for their substantial size and distinctive shell patterns, characterised by flared rear marginals resembling a skirt. Native to rocky hillsides and scrublands in southern Europe, particularly Greece and Italy, these herbivorous tortoises graze on a diverse array of wild plants. In the winter months they can enter brumation, a period akin to hibernation but at warmer temperatures. Marginated tortoises are well-adapted to dry environments and are cherished for their resilience and engaging personalities, making them fascinating pets.

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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 while they are small.

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 30°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 21-26°C.

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

Night time temperatures can drop to 21°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 Marginated 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.