



Mediterranean Spur-Thigh Tortoise Care Sheet

Species Name:

Testudo graeca

Adult Size:

25cm

Lifespan:

80-100 Years

Breeding Age:

6-8 Years



The Mediterranean spur-thighed tortoise (*Testudo graeca*) is a striking species native to the Mediterranean Basin. Recognisable by its robust, domed shell and distinctive yellow to brown colouration with dark markings, it thrives in diverse habitats including scrublands, grasslands, and woodlands. This tortoise is herbivorous, feeding primarily on grasses, leaves, and flowers. Notably, it features "spurs" on its hind legs, which are believed to help in defence and territorial behaviour.

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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 35-40°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 25°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 Mediterranean Spur-Thigh Tortoise 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.