



Red-Footed Tortoise Care Sheet

Species Name:

Chelonoidis carbonaria.

Adult Size:

34cm

Lifespan:

50+ Years

Breeding Age:

7-8 Years



The red-footed tortoise, *Chelonoidis carbonaria*, is a captivating species native to South America, known for its vibrant red, orange, or yellow markings on its legs and head. It inhabits a range of environments, from tropical rainforests to savannas, primarily in countries like Brazil, Paraguay, and Colombia. Their omnivorous diet includes fruits, vegetables, and occasional protein sources like insects. These tortoises are popular as pets due to their manageable size and gentle demeanour. However, they require specific care, including a warm, humid environment to thrive and remain healthy.

Housing:

Enclosure: Provide a spacious enclosure to allow your tortoise to manoeuvre. Ideally a wooden vivarium up to 4ft however, they will outgrow this and require a vivarium size of 5ft minimum.

Substrate: Use a substrate that retains moisture well such as coconut coir and orchid bark, provide your tortoise with a deep layer so they can burrow.

Temperature:

Maintain a basking spot temperature of 35°C.

Provide a gradient, with the cooler side around 28-32°C.

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

Night time temperatures can drop to 21-23°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, fruits, and the occasional protein source (bugs or pinkie mice) every 2 weeks.

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



Humidity and Hydration:

A humidity of 50-70% 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 Red-Footed 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.