shopping list for needed supplies

- □ appropriately sized habitat
- □ book about russian tortoises
- □ commercial russian tortoise food
- □ treats
- □ substrate
- ☐ food and water dishes
- ☐ hideaway place
- □ plants
- □ heat light
- □ heat fixture
- □ UVB lighting
- □ vitamin supplement
- □ calcium supplement
- □ thermometer
- □ humidity gauge

sources

Ask an associate about Petco's selection of books on Russian Tortoises and the variety of Petco Brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All Petco Brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all tortoises are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Salmonella, always wash your hands before and after handling your tortoise and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a Tortoise and should consider not having a Tortoise as a pet. Go to the Centers for Disease Control at cdc.gov/healthypets/ for more information about Tortoises and disease. Go to petco.com/caresheet to download other helpful Care Sheets.

This care sheet can cover the care needs of other species. See petco.com for more information.

Russian Tortoise

testudo horsfieldi



Care Sheet

This small tortoise enjoys burrowing and roaming about its habitat. They can become tame and friendly with gentle handling. With a long life span, expect your Russian Tortoise to be a companion for life.

Russian Tortoise facts:

average adult size: 6 to 8 inches long average life span: up to 50+ years

with proper care

diet: herbivore

Will reach adult size in 3-4 years under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your tortoise grows.

Note: The information in this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.



Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.



Care Sheet

Russian Tortoise

petco where the healthy pets go

Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.

testudo horsfieldi

diet

A well-balanced Russian Tortoise diet consists of:

- High fiber and calcium, low in protein and fat is needed to ensure good digestive tract function.
- Dark leafy vegetables, squash, carrots, etc.; fruit should be given sparingly as a treat.
- Also benefit from a Russian Tortoise commercial diet, but should be no more than 25% of the diet.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your Russian Tortoise:

- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times.
- Feed tortoises daily; chop vegetables.
- Sprinkle food with calcium supplement daily and a multi-vitamin supplement once or twice a week.
- Discard vegetables and fruits not eaten within 24 hrs.

housing

- Size indoor enclosure should be at least 36"x12"; outdoor enclosure should be at least 48"x48" with a secure screened cover to allow sunshine but provide protection, the walls should be high enough that the tortoise can't escape and buried at least 12" into the ground, as they will dig.
- Habitat keep habitat arid and dry, with shaded areas to escape direct sunlight. Humid climates may need a dehumidifier, cool climates require supplemental heating. Provide a hiding area, such as a cave or hide box filled with additional substrate. Maintain less than 30% humidity.
- Substrate tortoises are known for eating substrate, use something that is digestible such as alfalfa pellets; substrate should be deep enough for the tortoise to burrow. Don't use coarse

substrates such as sand or gravel that can scratch the shell.

- Temperature temperature gradient (85°F for the warm end and 75°F for the cool end); recommend using an incandescent light or ceramic heater as primary heat source.
- Lighting providing UVB lighting for 12-14 hours a day is required.
- Russian Tortoises can be kept together but do not house different tortoise species together.

normal behavior

- Active, friendly and outgoing.
- Will become tame with gentle handling and time; move slowly around tortoises to avoid startling them.
- Adept at digging to escape; hide in objects and burrow into substrate.

habitat maintenance

Thoroughly clean the habitat at least once a week: place tortoise in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all traces of bleach smell; dry the tank and furnishings completely and add clean substrate.

grooming & hygiene

Weekly water soaks with water level no deeper than the mid-point between the bottom of the tortoise's shell and its top.

signs of a healthy animal

- Active and alert
- Eats regularly
- Healthy shell
- Clear, bright eyes
- · Healthy skin
- Clear nose and vent

red flags

- eye, nose or mouth discharge
- soft, discolored or rough spots on shell
- lethargic
- bumps or spots on skin
- abnormal feces
- sneezing, mouth breathing, runny nose

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.

common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Metabolic bone/vitamin deficiency	due to insufficient UVB light. If untreated, can lead to a	Consult your exotic animal veterinarian and provide ample UVB lighting.
Respiratory disease	nose. Can be caused by cold, damp habitat, or infectious disease.	Consult with your exotic animal veterinarian and ensure appropriate heat levels.
Ticks and mites		Consult your exotic animal veterinarian.
Gastro- intestinal disease		