



All Creatures Animal Hospital

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Box Turtles As Pets

Average Lifespan: 10-50 years

Average Size: 4.5-6 inches

Diet

- Leafy greens, fruits, vegetables, fungi (mushrooms), mealworms and crickets.
- Wild turtles eat plants for almost half their diet and animal foods for a little bit over half the diet.

Grooming/Bathing

- Box turtles require submergence in water daily, so access to this must be made available in the enclosure or time must be given to them in a water tub daily.

Housing Recommendations

- Rubbermaid tubs and specially built wooden boxes have an advantage over glass aquariums because they have opaque sides. Some box turtles will obsessively try to get through the glass to get to the larger area that they can see on the other side.
- Outdoor enclosures provide a more suitable environment for your turtle as natural sun, shade, weeds and ponds can be provided.

Annual Exam Recommendations

- This time spent with our exotic veterinarian allows us to form a preventative plan for your pet. We can analyze your current husbandry and make suggestions.
- Fecal examinations check for internal parasites.
- Physical examinations by our veterinarian are needed to assess your turtle's health.

Senior Screening

- Blood work may be recommended if sickness is suspected in your older turtle.

Common Medical Conditions

- Shell infections, such as shell rot, or even shell fractures can occur causing widespread shell damage and pain to your turtle.
- Internal parasites can occur causing loss of appetite, weight loss, and/or diarrhea.
- Vitamin A deficiency is a common disease in turtles fed the wrong diet. Symptoms include skin changes, lack of appetite, lethargy, eye and nasal discharges, and/or abscesses.
- Respiratory bacterial infections can occur along with vitamin A deficiency, causing eye and nasal discharge.
- Abscesses also occur along with vitamin A deficiency, which appear as hard tumor-like swelling on your turtle's body.
- Bladder stones can occur in turtles on a diet with too much protein. This will cause blood to appear in the excrement.