



All Creatures Animal Hospital

1894 Ohio Pike
Amelia, OH 45102
513-797-7387

8451 Beechmont Ave
Anderson, OH 45255
513-474-5700

5194 Beechmont Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45230
513-231-2345

Aquatic Turtles As Pets

Sliders, Soft-shell, Reeves, Mud or Painted Turtles

Average Lifespan: 6-35 years depending on species

Diet

- A mixed diet of fish food, meat, fruits and vegetables should provide all the nutrients required.
- Feed your aquatic pet turtle with small live fish once a week. The fish hunt will provide the water pet turtle with some exercise and entertain you as you watch them dive after their food.
- It is recommended to feed your aquatic turtle outside of the enclosure to limit the frequency of water changes.

Grooming/Bathing

- Water must be kept free from uneaten food and excrement.

Housing Recommendations

- When raising an indoor aquatic pet turtle, keep in mind that the tank capacity should be at least 40 gallons to provide enough room for your turtle.
- Aquatic turtles require that enclosures have regular UV light exposure for 10-12 hours a day in order to absorb calcium.
- A high quality filtration system is needed to maintain the quality of water and keep it clean from uneaten food and excrement.
- Water must be fully changed regularly at least once a week as well. If your turtle is fed inside the enclosure, the water may need to be changed daily.
- The water level should be enough for the turtles to swim.
- A heater will be needed to maintain optimum temperatures in the water.

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 is 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.
- Soft-shell disease can occur if UV light is not provided causing shell deformation.
- Internal parasites can occur causing loss of appetite, weight loss, and/or diarrhea.
- Respiratory bacterial infections can occur 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.