

# Red-Footed Tortoise



## OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Chelonoidis carbonaria*
- Origin: South America
- Ease of Care: Experienced
- Potential Adult Size: 12-16 inches. Weight averages from 20 to 30lb
- Life Span: Upwards of 50 years
- Behaviour: Diurnal
- Diet: Herbivore, but will consume insect protein as a rare treat
- Handling: Intermediate (large adult weight will require due care)

## TOP TIPS

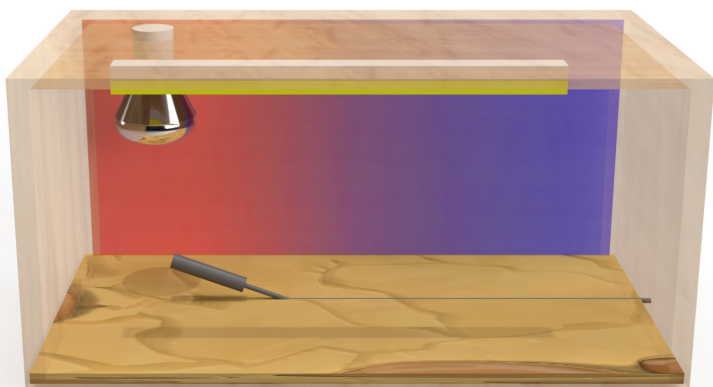
- ✓ Provide a HabiStat Tortoise Pool as a source of water, or a similar water bowl that is not too deep and allows for easy access.
- ✓ Provide a substrate deep enough to burrow.
- ✓ Each Tortoise will have a different appetite, so you will need to adjust the diet as needed to prevent obesity.
- ✓ Avoid high protein foods as these will cause rapid shell growth and deformation.
- ✓ Try using a cuttlefish bone to increase calcium intake and help to keep the beak trim.

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Housing: Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Bulb or Ceramic Bulb
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Jungle Bio, Arcadia EarthMix Arid
- Water: HabiStat Tortoise Pool

## ENVIRONMENT

### Terrestrial Vivarium Setup



### Heating

Red-Footed Tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonaria*) are diurnal animals and require a suitable light and heat gradient within their Vivarium.

Background Temp: 25°C (73°F)

Basking Spot: 32°C (90°F)

Night-Time Temp: 23°C-25°C (74°F-77°F)

Provide a warmer/hot area towards the one side of the enclosure, using an overhead heat source to offer a heat gradient. Use an Arcadia Pro Ceramic Lamp Holder & Bracket (RADCHP) with a HabiStat Heat Bulb (HBB100) running in conjunction with a HabiStat Dimming Thermostat (HTDW).

Dimming thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known

## HOUSING

We recommend a very large enclosure such as the Monkfield Standard Vivarium 72 x 24 x 24 inches (DVF7224). Alternatively, you could use an even bigger and taller enclosure to allow for a much deeper substrate.



as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the Red-Foot.

Alternatively, use a HabiStat Black Magic Ceramic Heater 100w (HBC100) as the heat source, which could be left on 24/7 when ran through a HabiStat Pulse Thermostat (HTPW) and maintain night heat if they are dropping to low.

Check temperatures regularly, using a reliable dual thermometer and hygrometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

## Lighting

Use the Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 12% (RARTP54R) on the inside roof of the vivarium. This will supply

realistic UVB levels within the enclosure.

Ensure that it is fitted correctly and within the manufacturers recommend distances.

## Substrate and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your enclosure, but we recommend the following as examples:

Arcadia EarthMix (RARE10), or HabiStat Jungle Bio (HSJB10).

Wood/branches for climbing over, hiding, and sleeping on/under.

Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the Red-Foot to use as shelter.

## DIET & WATER

Red-Foot Tortoises like to eat leafy greens, weeds, flowers, and fruit; feed your Red-Foot during the day when it is most active.

They will also eat the occasional earthworm as a treat (LEARTH).

Always provide a source of fresh water; the HabiStat Tortoise Pool (HRRDTPM) has a ramp which allows for easy access.

Misting the enclosure substrate as needed will also allow for the maintenance and regulation of the enclosure humidity.

## SUPPLEMENTATION

Red-Foot Tortoises need additional supplementation in the form of a calcium and multi-vitamin powder, such as Arcadia Earth Pro-A (RAREP100) and Arcadia Earth Pro Calcium Mg (RAREPCM80). Follow the on-pack instructions.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tortoise possess a tough horny beak instead of teeth. This can be quite sharp with some tortoise so take care not to put your fingers too close.

A group of tortoise is called a "creep".

Each section of a tortoise's shell is called a scute, the amount of scutes a tortoise has stays the same throughout its whole life and they grow with the rest of the tortoise.

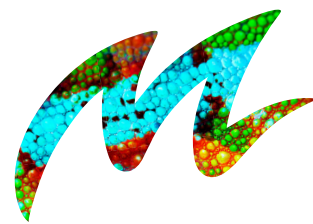
# HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Red-Foot Tortoise healthy and happy:

|         | Water                            | Substrate  | Enclosure   |
|---------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Daily   | Change old water for fresh water | Spot clean   | Check vents on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely       |
| Weekly  | Disinfect water bowl or dish     | Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build up and remove any dirty bedding | Wipe down glass with a reptile safe disinfectant                                    |
| Monthly |                                  | Full substrate change  | Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant |

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling your Red-Foot Tortoise, their enclosure and any other equipment.



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