

# Marginated Tortoise



## OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Testudo marginata*
- Origin: Southern Greece and Italy
- Ease of Care: Beginner/Intermediate
- Potential Adult Size: 10-12 inches
- Life Span: Up to 100 years
- Behaviour: Diurnal
- Diet: Herbivore
- Handling: Beginner

## TOP TIPS

- ✓ Use a Large Vivarium or Tortoise Table to accommodate the needs of the species.
- ✓ Allow for a few inches of substrate to enable the species to burrow.
- ✓ Provide a sturdy water bowl or Tortoise Pool for the Tortoise to hydrate if needed.

## HOUSING

An enclosure such as the Monkfield Standard Vivarium 60x24x24 inches (DVF6024), Monkfield Tortoise Vivarium 91x46x46cm (DVT), or the HabiStat Tortoise Table (HSTTO) would be ideal for a forever home for a Marginated Tortoise.

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Housing: Vivarium/Tortoise Table
- Heating: Heat Bulb
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Tortoise Bedding, HabiStat Repti-Turf
- Water: HabiStat Tortoise Pool

## ENVIRONMENT

### Tortoise Table Setup



### Heating

Marginated Tortoises are diurnal animals and require a suitable light and heat gradient in their terrarium.

Background Temp: 21°C-26°C (69°F-79°F)

HOT Spot: 30°C (86°F)

Night-Time Temp: 21°C (70°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 as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe

is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the Tortoise.

For a Tortoise Table, using the Arcadia 2nd Generation UV Basking Lamp 100w (RSMA100E27) will provide both heat and UV needs throughout the day.

Maintain night-time temperatures using a HabiStat Heat Mat (HHM\*\*) running through a HabiStat Mat Stat (HTMW1) if they are dropping too low.

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

## Lighting

In captivity, use the Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 12% (RARTP24R) on top of the mesh of the Terrarium. 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:

- HabiStat Tortoise Bedding (HSTB10), HabiStat Repti-Turf (HSHF10)
- Wood/branches/vines for climbing, hiding, and sleeping on.

## DIET & WATER

Marginated Tortoises are herbivorous; offer a varied range of weeds, greens, flowers, and complementary pellet-based Tortoise food (HSTFF200). Feed your Marginated Tortoise during the day when it is most active.,

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

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

## SUPPLEMENTATION

Marginated 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 tortoises 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.

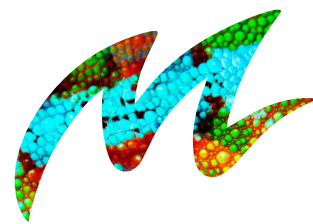
# HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Marginated 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 to allow any dirty bedding to be removed	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 Marginated Tortoise, their enclosure and any other equipment.



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