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## Hermann's Tortoise Care Sheet

Hermann's Tortoise are considered beginner reptiles because they are really easy to care for and hardy pets. Their enclosure is pretty simple and daily maintenance is minimal. They are quite intelligent animals and do enjoy coming out of the enclosure every day for mental and physical stimulation.

- **Adult Size:** Approximately 8 inches in shell length.
- **Life Expectancy:** Average in captivity is around 60 years.
- **Enclosure Size:** As long as the tortoise comes out for regular exercise they can live individually in a 4 foot by 2 foot enclosure.
- **Lighting:** Hermann's tortoise require heat and UV. UV can be offered through compact fluorescent bulbs, fluorescent, and mercury vapor bulbs and not all brands of the same style of bulb are the same as there are drastically different output levels. We recommend using either a T5 fluorescent bulb or a low UV output mercury vapor. These tortoises require low levels of UV for a day cycle of 10-12 hours.
- **Temperature/Humidity:** Basking area with overhead heat should be around 90°F during the day and then around 70°F for night time. Humidity ideally around 70%.
- **Bathing:** It is recommended to bath your tortoise once or twice a week. Use a rubbermaid with solid color sides and offer enough lukewarm water so the tortoise can easily stretch its face out of the water and give it 20-25 mins. Most of the time the tortoise will poop during the bath, so just gently rinse it off before it goes back into its enclosure.
- **Basic Enclosure setup:** It is important to use an enclosure that has solid color sides so the tortoise has a visual aid to its boundary, keeping them in a glass enclosure will frustrate the tortoise as it will "glass surf" trying to get out. Most people use rabbit cages so the lighting can be suspended above the tortoise and it won't be able to get out. Have the lighting off to one side so there is a warm and a cool side, have the house on the warm side and the food and water dish on the cool side.
- **Feeding:** Every day give them a healthy helping of leafy greens. It is good to give them pieces that are a bit bigger than their head so that they will need to rip and tear the food before eating it. This is really good mental and physical stimulation for them. Things that are harder should be chopped up into small bite size pieces. The more variety of things that you offer the healthier the tortoise will be. Maybe start with spring mix and arugula, and once that is gone collard greens and romaine lettuce, then parsley and cilantro, etc. It is also a good idea to offer a powdered vitamin like Repashy Superveggie 3-4 times a week sprinkled onto their food and the days that you don't offer vitamins.