

Leopard Tortoise General Info & Care Guide



Leopard Tortoise

Type	Terrestrial Reptile
Species	Stigmochelys Pardalis
Subspecies	Stigmochelys Pardalis Babcocki

Origin	Sub-Saharan Africa
Habitat	Grassland
Lifespan	50-100 years
Average Adult Size	10-18 inches in length
Diet	100% Herbivore

Appearance

Shell: black and yellow markings that resembles the pattern of leopards

Head & Limbs: tan or yellow covered with protective scales that may/may not have black spotting

Personalities:

Like any other tortoises, leopards do not appreciate being handled (lifted). However, they are very personable and gentle animals. Over time, they will recognize their owners and will seek interaction.

Each have their own personalities such as food or daily activity preferences.

Leopard tortoises do not burrow, so no need to worry about escapees!

Herbivore diet needs:

- 70% grasses and hay
- 15% weeds/herbs and leaves
- 10% grocery produce and commercial pellets
- 5% fruits and flowers

Enclosure needs:

- 8x7 ft (about 50 sq ft) per adult
- Deep soil/bark/coco coir substrate to allow digging
- Indoor: closed-chamber pvc or a dedicated room
- Outdoor: secured area in the garden/greenhouse

Heating and lighting:

- As desert grassland species, they require hot temperatures: to reach their core body temperature, their basking area must be at 95-115°F and ambient must be 87-93°F
- They are thermoregulators and require cooling down: the coolest area of their enclosure must be at the very least 80-85°F (also ideal for nighttime temp)
- When housed indoors, it is important to provide a source of UVB to aid in healthy bone growth. UVB helps in preventing metabolic bone disease common in reptiles.

Humidity and hydration:

- Moisture and water is key to a healthy growing tortoise, regardless of their species. They help with the smooth growth of the shell and important metabolic processes.
- Ideal humidity can be difficult to control depending on where you live. The best controlled environment is in a closed-chamber enclosure, especially in indoor-keeping.
- Maintaining a humidity of about 75-80% regardless of age would benefit your growing tortoise. As they age, the relative humidity can be decreased but not less than 50%. Daily 15-20 min. soak and providing fresh water ensures good hydration.

