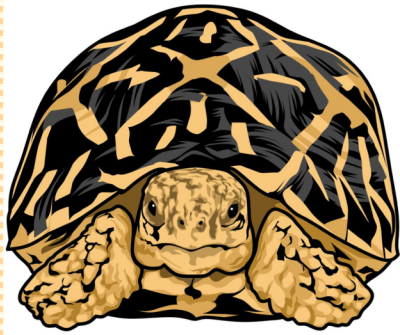


Star Tortoise General Info & Care Guide



INDIAN STAR TORTOISE

Type	Terrestrial Reptile
Species	Geochelone Elegans

Origin	India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan
Habitat	Grassland
Lifespan	30-50 years
Average Adult Size	7-12 inches in length
Diet	100% Herbivore

Appearance

Shell:
black with yellow rays resembling stars in a dark night sky

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

Personalities:

Like any other tortoises, star tortoises do not appreciate being handled (lifted). Although they are naturally shy, they are 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. When kept as a group, they tolerate each other well.

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) can house a group of 3
- 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 grassland species, they require not temperatures: to reach their core body temperature, their basking area must be at 95-115°F and ambient must be 88-90°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.

