



Baby Yellow-Bellied Slider Turtle Care Guide

Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop

Basic Info

Species: *Trachemys scripta scripta* (Yellow-Bellied Slider)

Lifespan: 30-40+ years in captivity

Adult Size: 5-9 inches (females larger)

Temperament: Active, curious, semi-aquatic turtle - not suited for handling

Best for: Beginner to intermediate keepers with proper aquatic setups

Enclosure Setup

Tank Size:

- Babies: Minimum 20-gallon long tank
- Adults: 75-100 gallon tank or outdoor pond
- Water depth should be 2-3x the turtle's length

Temperature & Heating:

- Water temperature: 76-80°F (use submersible heater)
- Basking area: 88-92°F with basking bulb
- Ambient air temp: 75-80°F

Filtration & Water Quality:

- Strong filtration system (canister filters work best)
- Partial water changes (25-50%) weekly

- Use dechlorinator for tap water

Lighting:

- UVB required (T5 HO 5.0 or 10.0 above basking area)
- Provide 12 hours of day/night cycle

Basking Dock:

- Must be fully out of water and easy to access
- Use floating or mounted basking platforms

Substrate (Optional):

- Bare bottom preferred or large river rocks (no gravel)
- Include driftwood, plants, and turtle-safe decor

Diet & Feeding

Feeding Frequency:

- Babies: Feed daily

Diet:

- Commercial turtle pellets (balanced with calcium and protein)
- Protein: bloodworms, brine shrimp, feeder insects (2-3x/week)
- Plant matter: romaine, dandelion, duckweed, anacharis
- Avoid fruit, spinach, or iceberg lettuce

Supplementation:

- Include cuttlebone or calcium block in the tank
- Dust live food with calcium occasionally

Water & Hydration:

- Turtles hydrate and eat in water
- Keep water clean and accessible

Handling & Behavior

Handling:

- Not recommended for regular handling
- May scratch or bite if stressed - observe rather than handle
- Wash hands before and after any contact

Behavior to Expect:

- Diurnal and active during daylight
- Will bask under heat lamp and swim frequently
- Social and responsive to feeding times

Supplies Checklist

- 20-40 gallon tank for babies
- Submersible aquarium heater
- UVB bulb and basking bulb
- Basking dock or platform
- Water filter and water conditioner
- Water thermometer and basking thermometer
- Turtle pellets, cuttlebone, live plants or greens
- Large smooth rocks or safe decor

Contact Us

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We're here to help!