



## **Baby Red-Foot Tortoise Care Guide**

*Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop*

### **Basic Info**

Species: *Chelonoidis carbonarius* (Red-Footed Tortoise)

Lifespan: 40-60+ years in captivity

Adult Size: 10-16 inches

Temperament: Calm, curious, and generally friendly

Best for: Intermediate keepers due to humidity and diet needs

### **Enclosure Setup**

Tank Size:

- Babies: 40-gallon enclosure minimum
- Larger enclosures or tortoise tables preferred as they grow
- Outdoor enclosures in warm climates are great with supervision

Temperature & Heating:

- Basking area: 90-95°F
- Cool side: 75-80°F
- Night: no lower than 70°F
- Use a basking bulb and ceramic heat emitter if needed

Humidity:

- Maintain 60-80% humidity for babies

- Mist daily and provide a humid hide or moss box
- Use a hygrometer to monitor levels

#### Lighting:

- Full-spectrum UVB lighting required (T5 10.0 or Arcadia 12%)
- Provide 12-14 hours of light daily

#### Substrate:

- Coconut coir, cypress mulch, or a mix of soil and organic material
- Keep slightly moist but not wet to prevent shell rot

#### Décor & Enrichment:

- Include logs, hides, low platforms, and leaf litter
- Ensure all décor is secure and cannot be climbed unsafely

## **Diet & Feeding**

#### Feeding Frequency:

- Feed daily

#### Diet:

- Leafy greens: dandelion, collard, mustard, endive, escarole
- Vegetables: squash, bell peppers, cactus pads
- Fruits (2-3x/week): papaya, mango, berries, banana
- Protein: occasional cooked egg, earthworms, or tortoise-safe commercial diet (1-2x/month)

#### Supplementation:

- Calcium without D3: 2-3x/week
- Multivitamin: 1x/week
- Avoid over-supplementing and provide natural sunlight when possible

#### Water & Hydration:

- Shallow water dish at all times (clean daily)
- Soak baby tortoises in shallow warm water 3-4x/week for 15-20 minutes

## **Handling & Behavior**

### Handling:

- Handle gently and minimally as babies can stress easily
- Support their body and avoid flipping or dropping

### Behavior to Expect:

- Diurnal and ground-dwelling
- Will graze and dig regularly
- Active and curious when conditions are correct

## **Supplies Checklist**

- 40+ gallon enclosure or tortoise table
- Basking bulb and ceramic heat emitter
- UVB light (T5 10.0 or Arcadia 12%)
- Moisture-retaining substrate (coir, mulch)
- Digital thermometer and hygrometer
- Water dish and soaking container
- Variety of fresh greens, veggies, and fruits
- Calcium and multivitamin supplements

## **Contact Us**

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We're here to help!