



Baby Leopard Tortoise Care Guide

Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop

Basic Info

Species: *Stigmochelys pardalis* (Leopard Tortoise)

Lifespan: 50-100+ years

Adult Size: 12-18 inches (can reach 40+ lbs)

Temperament: Gentle, calm, and slow-moving

Best for: Intermediate to experienced keepers with space for large tortoises

Enclosure Setup

Tank Size:

- Babies: 40-50 gallon tortoise tub or enclosure
- Adults: Large outdoor pen or indoor space with 8+ sq. ft.
- Provide plenty of floor space for walking and grazing

Temperature & Heating:

- Basking area: 90-95°F
- Cool side: 75-80°F
- Night: 70-75°F minimum for babies
- Use ceramic heat emitter or radiant heat panel as needed

Humidity:

- Maintain 50-70% humidity for babies

- Mist daily and provide a humid hide to prevent pyramiding
- Use a hygrometer to monitor humidity

Lighting:

- UVB required (T5 HO 10.0 or Arcadia 12%)
- Provide 12-14 hours of light per day

Substrate:

- Coconut coir, cypress mulch, or organic topsoil
- Keep substrate slightly moist but never wet

Décor & Enrichment:

- Provide low hides, flat rocks, and safe logs
- Allow open space for walking and exploring

Diet & Feeding

Feeding Frequency:

- Feed daily

Diet:

- Leafy greens: dandelion, collard, mustard, turnip, endive
- Grasses and hays (timothy, orchard, bermuda)
- Occasional veggies: squash, cactus pads
- Avoid fruits and high-protein foods

Supplementation:

- Calcium without D3: 3-4x/week
- Multivitamin: 1x/week
- Provide cuttlebone for self-regulating calcium intake

Water & Hydration:

- Keep a shallow water dish available at all times
- Soak in shallow warm water 3-4x/week for 15-20 minutes

Handling & Behavior

Handling:

- Handle gently and only when necessary
- Always support the entire body

Behavior to Expect:

- Diurnal and slow-moving
- Grazing, basking, and exploring are common behaviors
- Will dig and push objects when exploring

Supplies Checklist

- 40+ gallon tortoise tub or enclosure
- UVB lighting and basking bulb
- Ceramic heat emitter for nighttime
- Moisture-retaining substrate (coir, mulch, soil)
- Digital thermometer and hygrometer
- Water and soaking dish
- Dark leafy greens and grasses/hays
- Calcium and multivitamin supplements

Contact Us

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We're here to help!