



## **Russian Tortoise Care Guide**

*Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop*

### **Basic Info**

Species: *Testudo horsfieldii* (Russian Tortoise)

Lifespan: 40-50+ years

Adult Size: 6-10 inches

Temperament: Friendly, active, and curious

Best for: Beginners and experienced keepers alike

### **Enclosure Setup**

Tank Size:

- Minimum 40-gallon tortoise table or enclosure
- Larger enclosures (4x2 ft or bigger) preferred for long-term care
- Outdoor enclosures encouraged in warm, dry climates

Temperature & Heating:

- Basking spot: 90-95°F
- Cool side: 70-75°F
- Night: Can drop to 60-70°F
- Use a basking bulb and ceramic heat emitter if needed

Humidity:

- Maintain low humidity: 30-50%

- Good ventilation is critical
- Avoid overly moist enclosures

#### Lighting:

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

#### Substrate:

- Coconut coir, topsoil, or a mix of soil and sand
- Minimum 3-5 inches deep for digging and burrowing
- Spot clean regularly and replace as needed

#### Décor & Enrichment:

- Include hides, flat rocks, logs, and grazing areas
- Provide room for walking and digging

## **Diet & Feeding**

#### Feeding Frequency:

- Feed daily

#### Diet:

- Leafy greens: dandelion, collard, mustard, turnip, escarole, endive
- Occasional veggies: squash, zucchini, cactus pads
- Avoid fruits and high-oxalate greens (like spinach)

#### Supplementation:

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

#### Water & Hydration:

- Shallow water dish available at all times
- Soak in warm water 2-3 times per week for 15-20 minutes

## **Handling & Behavior**

### Handling:

- Generally tolerates gentle handling
- Always support their full body - never pick up by legs or shell edge

### Behavior to Expect:

- Diurnal and highly active, especially in the morning
- Will dig, climb, and explore
- May burrow and hide when stressed or cold

## **Supplies Checklist**

- 40+ gallon tortoise table or enclosure
- Basking bulb and UVB fixture
- Ceramic heat emitter (optional)
- Soil-based substrate (deep enough to dig)
- Digital thermometer and hygrometer
- Shallow water dish and soaking tray
- Daily leafy greens and veggie supply
- Calcium and multivitamin supplements

## **Contact Us**

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We're here to help!