



## **Baby Red-Eared Slider Turtle Care Guide**

*Presented by Custom Creatures Pet Shop*

### **Basic Info**

Species: *Trachemys scripta elegans* (Red-Eared Slider)

Lifespan: 20-40+ years in captivity

Adult Size: 6-10 inches (females larger)

Temperament: Active, hardy, and semi-aquatic - not ideal for frequent handling

Best for: Beginner to intermediate keepers with appropriate aquatic setup

### **Enclosure Setup**

Tank Size:

- Babies: 20-gallon long tank minimum
- Adults: 75-100 gallon tank or larger
- Water depth should be at least twice the turtle's length

Heating & Temperature:

- Water temp: 76-80°F for babies (use submersible heater)
- Basking area: 88-92°F (use basking bulb above dry dock)
- Ambient air temp: 75-80°F

Filtration & Water Quality:

- Use strong filtration (canister filters recommended)
- Perform partial water changes weekly (25-50%)

- Use dechlorinator for tap water

#### Lighting:

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

#### Basking & Dry Dock:

- Provide floating or fixed basking platform fully out of the water
- Surface should be stable and easy to climb

#### Substrate (Optional):

- Bare bottom or large river rocks (no small gravel to prevent ingestion)
- Plants and decor should be turtle-safe

## **Diet & Feeding**

#### Feeding Frequency:

- Babies: Feed daily

#### Diet:

- Commercial turtle pellets (high-quality, calcium-rich)
- Protein: bloodworms, shrimp, crickets (2-3x/week)
- Greens: romaine, dandelion, duckweed, water lettuce
- Avoid spinach, iceberg, or fruit

#### Supplementation:

- Calcium block or cuttlebone in tank at all times
- Dust feeder insects with calcium occasionally

#### Water & Hydration:

- Turtles drink in water - no separate water bowl needed
- Clean water is key to their health

## **Handling & Behavior**

#### Handling:

- Not recommended frequently - can be stressed and may bite
- Wash hands before and after handling due to salmonella risk

#### Behavior to Expect:

- Diurnal and very active swimmers
- Will bask regularly under heat lamp
- Curious and may recognize their caregiver

### **Supplies Checklist**

- 20-40 gallon tank for babies
- Submersible aquarium heater
- Water thermometer and basking thermometer
- UVB bulb and basking bulb
- Floating or fixed basking dock
- Turtle pellets and calcium block
- Water filter and water conditioner
- Large rocks or turtle-safe decorations

### **Contact Us**

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We're here to help!