

CLEANING:

- Reptile safe cleaners such as **Reptile Science Cage Cleaner** should always be used when cleaning your reptile enclosure.
- Turtles must never be allowed to lie in soiled substrates, as this can lead to numerous health problems.
- Enclosures and furniture should be cleaned weekly and excrement and regurgitated food should be attended to immediately.
- Substrates should be changed regularly to prevent parasitic infestations.
- Outdoor ponds should be easily drained and cleaned.
- Enthusiastic keepers should consider attaching pond filters to ensure cleanliness.



FEEDING:

- Turtles have a tendency to gorge themselves and never appear to be full.
- If food is available it will continue to eat, leading to obesity and other health problems.
- Fresh water turtles are mainly carnivorous but should be offered vegetable matter on a regular basis.
- Feeding temperatures should be maintained, cool conditions will cause digestive problems and hot conditions will cause vomiting.
- Feeding should occur every 2-3 days.
- Turtles should have a strict feeding regime and one or two feeds should be skipped to prevent obesity.
- A general rule for all fresh water turtles is to offer an amount of food proportionate to the size of the animal's head.
- Mature turtles should receive the equivalent of a full matchbox.
- Food amounts can be reduced or increased through observation.
- **Tetra Reptomin** and **HBH Turtle Bites** are a commercially available food source and have added calcium for turtle maintenance.
- **Reptivite**, and/or **Rep-Cal Herptivite** vitamin supplements should be incorporated into the diet weekly to ensure that your turtle is receiving the amount of vitamins required.
- Minced meat should be used sparingly and should be always fed with a vitamin supplement.
- When water temperatures drop below 15 degrees Celsius feeding should be stopped.
- Fresh water turtles torpid period starts in May and ends in late August to early September.
- Feeding should be stopped one month before this period.

SLOUGHING:

- Fresh water turtles will shed the plates on the shell.
- Increase the consumption of calcium and UV exposure to ensure that the process continues normally.
- Shell size should be recorded seasonally for personal and submittable records.
- Being semi-aquatic animals turtles are susceptible to water born pathogens.

Fresh Water Turtle Vegetables

Elodea (Aquarium Plants)	Peas	Sweet Potato
Watercress	Banana	Celery Tops
Algae	Squash	Pear

Fresh Water Turtle Meat and Insects

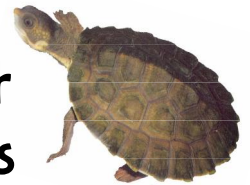
Snails (not near posions)	Lean Mince (Red Meat)	Boiled Egg (Chicken)
Crickets	Cockroaches	Mealworms
Frozen Mice/Rats	Moths	Worms
Beetles	Small Gudgeons	Daphnia (frozen)
Bloodworms	Lean Mince	Frozen Turtle Dinner
Earwigs	Small Grayfish	Grasshoppers
Shrimp	Small Fish	Shrimp

COMMERCIAL FOODS:

- Tetra Reptomin
- Nutrafin Max Turtle Pellets
- Zoomed Repti Cricket
- Wombaroo Reptile Supplement
- HBH Turtle Bites
- Nutrafin Turtle Snack
- Zoomed Can O'Cricketts
- Zoomed Hatchling Turtle Food



Fresh Water Turtles



Saw-shelled Krefts
Eastern Long necked
(Chelodina longicollis)
Brisbane River Turtle
(Emydura macquarii signata)

GENERAL:

- The mentioned Turtles are commonly kept varieties in the South East Corner.
- There are many more varieties of long necked, short necked and saw-shelled turtles available.
- Some of which are not recommended for the new reptile keeper, as their husbandry is more specific.
- **PENNY TURTLES ARE BABY TURTLES, NOT A SPECIES!**
- **Fresh water turtles will grow up to 30cm long.**

CAUTION:

- Exercise care when handling fresh water turtles, as some species do not enjoy being handled and can scratch and/or bite injuring the keeper.
- Turtles are observational pets and extensive handling may cause stress compromising the well being of the animal.

LICENCES AND REGULATIONS:

- To keep most species of fresh water turtle you must first obtain a RECREATIONAL WILDLIFE LICENCE (Reptiles), from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

ENCLOSURE:

- Baby turtles start at about the size of a 50c piece and can be housed in three-foot (90cm) – four-foot (150cm) **Dalbarb Turtle enclosures**.
- These enclosures have incorporated the land requirements in their layout.
- Fresh water turtles require a large swimming area as well as an area where they can completely dry.
- Young turtles will spend most of their time in the water.
- Because of this several semi-submerged logs and/or rocks should be positioned to allow out of the water basking with an easy escape to the water.
- Basking logs and rocks should be placed in positions where they cannot be knocked or rolled over resulting in possible damage to the animal.
- Easy access is essential for the turtle enclosure for cleaning, feeding and retrieving.
- Several hides should be provided to reduce stress and an escape for nervous and/or scared turtles, both in and out of the water.
- Fresh water turtle enclosures should mimic the animal's natural environment. Therefore substrates used in the land area will vary with the type of turtle housed.
- **Zoomed Reptisand, ESU Reptile Desert Blend, and Ultimate Bush Flooring** are suitable substrates for use in turtle enclosures.
- Submerged areas should contain a mixture of fine and medium *Coffs harbour gravel*.
- Several aquarium plants should also be incorporated into the under water design as they provide shelter and a vegetable food source.
- Aquarium plants should not be collected from local creeks and waterways as they commonly harbour fungus, bacteria and parasites such as water mites and leeches.
- Mature turtles will need to be housed in outdoor enclosures.
- Outdoor enclosures should consist of a walled area 4m long by 2m Wide.
- The wall should be At least 2½ foot (75cm high) and extend 1 foot (30cm) below ground.
- Chicken wire covers protect outdoor enclosures from predatory birds and animals.
- The enclosure must also include a suitable pond for the turtle.
- Ponds for mature turtles should be at least 2m long by 3m wide and should vary in depth between 30cm-1m in depth.

- Edges to the pond should be sloped for easy access.
- Ponds should be easily drained for cleaning.
- Hides should be provided both in and out of the water.
- Additional shelters are essential in outdoor enclosures for escaping heat.
- Several semi-submerged logs and/or rocks should be positioned to allow out of the water basking with an easy escape to the water.
- Basking logs and rocks should be placed in positions where they cannot be knocked or rolled over resulting in possible damage to the animal.
- Ponds need a variety of aquatic plants such as lilies and sedges to provide cover and protection.
- Pond filters are essential for the maintenance of hygiene.
- Using biological waste reducer **Biocare Turtle Clean** can control turtle waste.
- Calcium and general health care aids can be delivered to turtles via the water using **Zoomed Dr. Turtle** and/or **Tetra Terrafluna Turtle Health conditioner**.



HEATING:

- Heat sources should always be attached to a THERMOSTAT.
- NEVER OVERHEAT YOUR FRESH WATER TURTLES.
- The thermostats probe should be placed directly under or above the heat source.
- This area should be kept at the highest temperature level your turtle requires, so that a temperature gradient of about 5 degrees can be established in the enclosure
- Depending on the species being kept, variations in minimum and maximum temperatures will occur. Conformation of these variants should be sought at the time of purchase.
- Turtles should be provided with a day and night conditions, the standard air temperature under the heat source should be between 25-28 degrees Celsius.
- Water temperature should also be maintained via a **Tetrathec** or **Rena** aquarium heaters, at 22-25 degrees Celsius.
- To stimulate daytime conditions a **Zoomed Repti Basking Spot Lamp** should be used in conjunction with a UV source.
- To stimulate nighttime conditions one of the following or a combination of **Zoomed Nocturnal Infrared Heat Lamp**, **Zoomed Ceramic Infrared Heat Emitter**, **Zoomed Reptitherm U.T.H.** and **Habistat Heat Mats** should be used.

- **Zoomed Repticare Rock Heater's** are an excellent alternative for basking rocks, but the keeper should ensure that the surface does not become too hot.
- Heat rocks should be placed under a UV source, for maximum efficiency.
- Allowing turtles to enter a period of torpidity is recommended when mature.
- Immature and injured turtles should be kept warm and well fed throughout the winter.
- Water temperature should be carefully monitored towards the torpid period, as turtles will begin slowing down when the water level reaches 14 degrees Celsius.
- NEVER EXPOSE TURTLES TO SUBZERO CONDITIONS.
- Care should be taken with the feeding regime so that NO undigested food remains in the digestive system when entering the cooling process, as undigested food will decay resulting in possibly fatal infections.
- Temperatures in the reptile enclosure should be maintained at 5-7 degrees Celsius to prevent chilling.
- This is not always possible in outdoor ponds.
- This period generally starts around April and ends in September.

LIGHTING:

- UV lighting is essential for all species of fresh water turtles.
- UV requirements vary from species to species and conformation should be sought upon purchase.
- UV light can be delivered through the new **Arcadia 23W D3 Compact Reptile Lamp**.
- **Zoomed Powersun UV** provides a ready source of heat and UV for large enclosures and provides an exceptional basking area.
- UV light should be provided for 12-16 hours per day during the summer months and between 9-12 hours per day during the winter months.
- Natural sunlight is an excellent source of natural UV light in an outdoor enclosure.
- Reptiles in outdoor enclosures do not need additional lighting.