





# **Painted Wood Turtle**

Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima manni

# Distribution

Mexico, Central America

	<b>®</b>		
Adult Size	Life Span	Experience	Handling
Up to 20cm (7 inches)	30 years +	Beginner	Will tolerate some handling



#### Natural habitat

Painted Wood Turtles live in rainforests and bushes, they are mainly terrestrial and can only occasionally be found in shallow water.

## Housing

Painted Wood Turtles do best within a Tortoise table or well-ventilated wooden vivarium. The minimum enclosure size would be 152 x 121 x 121 cm (60x24x24 inches) this allows sufficient length to allow for the creation of a temperature gradient. If you can provide a larger enclosure, then this will benefit your animal.



## Heating

Painted Wood Turtles will need a temperature range of 22-38°c (71-100°f)

Basking spot maximum	Ambient daytime range	Ambient night-time range
32°c (90°f)	24-30°c (76-86°f)	22°c (71°f)



The basking and ambient temperatures can be achieved using Reptile Systems Basking Spot Lamps in combination with a Reptile Systems Large Black Clamp lamp. If additional night-time heat is needed this can be achieved using a Reptile Systems Ceramic Heat Emitter Lamps in combination with a Reptile Systems Large Black Clamp lamp.

Always ensure that heating products are run through a suitable dimming thermostat and ensure they correctly caged off so that your animal can not burn itself.

# Lighting

Painted Wood Turtles are classified as zone 2 in the Ferguson scale the require a UVI of 0.7-3 within their basking zone ranging down to zero in the cooler / shaded areas of the enclosure. The ideal photo period would be 12 hours with all the lights on and 12 hours with all the lights off.

The recommended UVI range can be achieved using and Reptile Systems Zone 2 T5 / T8 Lamp used in combination with a Mercury Vapour.

Please note Mercury Vapour lamps provide UVA, UVB and heat and cannot be run through a thermostat.







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#### Substrate

Painted Wood Turtles do best on 50% damp sterile soil and 50% Coco coir with a top layer of orchid bark, the substrate should be deep enough for them to bury themselves down into at night if they wish to, this can be used in conjunction with rocks, pebbles and slate to provide interesting textures.

## Water / humidity

Painted Wood Turtles should be provided with fresh water daily and should be provided with a shallow pool, they do not like deep water but do like to soak themselves.



Red Foot Tortoise's require an ambient humidity of 60%.

### Diet / Nutrition

Painted Wood Turtles are Omnivores, their natural diet is made up of 70% weeds, plants and flowers and 30% low sugar fruits. They also require animal protein in their diet in the form of worms, slugs, snails given on a weekly basis and the occasional pinkie mouse.



In the wild it is known tortoises and Turtles can consume a combination of over 200 different plants. You should offer a wide variety vegetation ideally of safe weeds and flowers that you can grow yourself or forage. We understand that not everyone is confident identifying safe wild food plants or indeed has the time to do so in this case Reptile Systems Tortoise Mix can be an ideal alternative.

Reptile Systems Calcium Ultra should be used 3 times a week as a dust on vegetation Reptile Systems Vit-a-min should be used twice a week as a dust on vegetation (as a guide for adult animals).

### Handling

Tortoises and Turtles in general do not like being picked up, they may kick and hiss. Captive tortoises will become tame and will come up to owners for attention and hand feeding.



# **Suggested Reptile Systems Products**

Large Black Clamp Lamp Multi directional ceramic lamp fitting with reflector.

Basking Halo Spot Provides UVA and heat.

Zone 2 T5 lamp

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, requires a ballast unit.

Zone 2 T8 lamp

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, requires a ballast unit.

Zone 2 Eco Unit

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, reliable electronic controller, and reflector kit.

T8 Electronic Controller Flicker free ballast unit for T8 lamps.

Proten New Dawn LED LED light source to support live plants.

Ceramic Heat Emitter

Perfect from creating ambient heat with no light.

Reptile Systems Mercury Vapor Provides a source of UVA, UVB and heat.

Reptile Systems Tortoise Food

Reptile Systems Calcium Ultra

Reptile Systems Vit-A-Min