



Reptile Systems

ZONE 3
UVI 2.9 - 7.4

ZONE 4
UVI 4.5 - 8.0

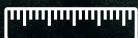


Red Eared Slider

Trachemys scripta elegans

Distribution

Southern United States and Northern Mexico



Adult Size

15-40 cm
(6-16 inches)



Life Span

20-40 years



Experience

Beginner



Handling

Will tolerate
some handling

Natural habitat



The natural range of a Red Eared Sliders is wide as they are listed within the top 100 invasive species list, but the areas they originate from are sources of still warm water like ponds, swamps, creeks, streams or slow flowing rivers. They live in areas of calm water where they can easily climb out the water onto rocks or tree trunks to bask.

Housing

Red Eared Sliders require a complex enclosure as you need to provide both a water area so they can swim and a land area so they can bask. We recommend a glass well sealed enclosure. Minimum enclosure size of 120 x 60 x 60cm (48 x 24 x 24 inch) this will then provide enough room for a landing platform as well as a swimming area.



Heating

Red Eared Sliders will need a temperature range of 23-37°C (75-100°F)

Basking spot maximum

37°C (100°F)

Ambient daytime range

23-29°C (75-85°F)

Ambient night-time range

23-29°C (75-85°F)



The basking and ambient temperatures are easily achieved using Reptile Systems Eco Halogen or Mercury Vapour in combination with a Reptile Systems Medium or 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 Medium or Large Black Clamp lamp.

Always ensure that heating products (except Mercury Vapour lamps) are run through a suitable dimming thermostat and ensure they correctly positioned far enough away from water, so they are not splashed and securely mounted.

Lighting

Red Eared Sliders are between zone 3 & 4 in the Ferguson scale the require a UVI of 3-5 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.



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The recommended UVI range can easily be achieved using a Reptile Systems Zone 3 T5 lamp or a Zone 3 Eco T5 fixture, you can also use a Mercury Vapour lamp in combination with a T5 lighting to meet the required UVI range.

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



Substrate

Red Eared Sliders do not require a substrate on the land areas as they will drag loose substrates into the water. You can use aquarium sand, rocks, gravel and pebbles to dress the bottom of the water areas, and provide big rocks, slate and wood pieces for the landing areas.

Water / humidity

Red Eared Sliders require a large water area for swimming this should be kept at 23-29°C (75-85°F) and filtered using an Aquarium filter to keep the water clear.



Diet / Nutrition

Red Eared Sliders are omnivorous and opportunistic feeders.

They will readily take a mixture of insects, aquatic foods, vegetation, shrimp meat and fish.

Reptile Systems floating Turtle Mix is a complete food highly palatable and is a combination of selected fish, shrimp complete diet sticks and crisps.

Handling

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



Suggested Reptile Systems Products

Medium / Large Black Clamp Lamp

Multi directional ceramic lamp fitting with reflector.

Eco Halogen white

Provides heat and UVA

Zone 3 T5 lamp

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, requires a ballast unit.

Zone 3 Eco Unit

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

Gold Infrared Unit

Emits Infrared A and B into the enclosure.

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 Turtle Mix

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