



**Reptile  
Systems**

*We create your best solutions*

**ZONE 3**  
UVI 2.9 - 7.4

## Russian (Horsfield) Tortoise

*Testudo horsfieldii*



### Distribution

Russia, Ukraine, Pakistan, Western China



#### Adult Size

15-20 cm  
(6-10 inches)



#### Life Span

40 years +



#### Experience

Beginner



#### Handling

Will tolerate  
some handling



### Natural habitat

The natural range of a Russian Tortoise is wide but typically they are found in dry inhospitable places near deserts and on dry slopes in mountainous regions.

### Housing

Russian Tortoise do best within a Tortoise table or well-ventilated wooden vivarium. The minimum enclosure size would be 152 x 60 x 60 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 as tortoises walk huge distances each day.



### Heating

Russian Tortoises will need a temperature range of 18-31°C (65-88°F)



#### Basking spot maximum

31°C (88°F)

#### Ambient daytime range

21-26°C (70-80°F)

#### Ambient night-time range

18-21°C (65-70°F)

The basking and ambient temperatures are easily achieved using Reptile Systems Basking Spot Lamps 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 are run through a suitable dimming thermostat and ensure they correctly caged off so that your animal can not burn itself.

### Lighting

Russian Tortoises are classified as zone 3 in the Ferguson scale the require a UVI of 2.9-7.4 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 easily achieved using and Reptile Systems Zone 3 T5 / T8 Lamp or Eco Unit you can also use a Mercury Vapour lamp in combination with liner T5 / T8 lighting to meet the required UVI range.

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





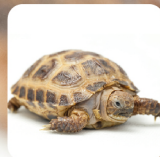
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### Substrate

Russian Tortoises do best on a damp sterile soil that is 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

Russian Tortoises should be provided with fresh water daily, in a reasonable sized shallow bowl they can get their whole body into and which is heavy enough that your pet can not tip.

Russian Tortoises require an ambient humidity of 30-50%.



### Diet / Nutrition

Russian Tortoise are herbivores and require a high fibre low protein diet.

In the wild it is known tortoise 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 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

#### Medium / Large Black Clamp Lamp

Multi directional ceramic lamp fitting with reflector.

#### Basking Halo Spot

Provides UVA and heat

#### Zone 3 T5 lamp

UVB fluorescent full spectrum lamp, requires a ballast unit.

#### Zone 3 T8 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.

#### 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

This care guide with minor adjustments could be applied to Egyptian Tortoise, Hermanns Tortoise and Spur-thighed tortoise

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