

# HOW TO TAKE CARE OF MUD TURTLES

Taking care of mud turtles can be tricky and demands experience. Hence, this species is not the best option when just getting into turtles.



## FOOLPROOF CARE SHEET

### HERE IS THE BRIEF ON HOW TO TAKE CARE OF MUD TURTLES

#### HOUSING

50 – 100 gallon tank, basking dock, UV light, heating lamp, water filter, tank heater

#### BASKING TEMPERATURE

85 – 92° F

#### WATER TEMPERATURE

74 – 78° F

#### AIR TEMPERATURE

78 – 82° F

#### FOOD HABIT

Fish, shrimp, snail, worm, insect, lettuce, green leaf, apple, pellets, supplements

## HOW TO TAKE CARE OF MUD TURTLES?

### MUD TURTLE TANK SIZE

A young mud turtle can move freely in a 40-gallon aquarium. However, it will be best to place the turtle in a 50 – 100 gallon tank as soon as it becomes an adult. Again, the mud turtle hatchling requires minimum space, about 20-gallon.



### WHAT SHOULD I PUT IN MY MUD TURTLE TANK?



1. BASKING DOCK



3. WATER FILTER



5. SUBSTRATE (OPTIONAL)



2. LIGHTING ARRANGEMENTS



4. TANK HEATER



6. DECORATION (OPTIONAL)

### BASKING DOCK

Professionals mostly build double-decker habitats for the mud turtles, considering their basking preference. In this model, you have to install a second tank solely for basking or burrowing purposes and set it up atop the water surface. A rampage is a must for these housings too.



### LIGHTING ARRANGEMENTS

Generally, reptile bulbs come in handy, providing warmth to the mud turtles. These lights are proven effective and can be a replacement for the sun heat in an indoor enclosure.



Again, Studies have proven that turtle activity rate, mental state, digestive system, and even growth are linked to UV exposures.

### TANK HEATER

A tank heater can be an excellent way to heat water and make swimming cosier for the mud turtles. Cold water will only make these turtles stick and increase the risk of infectious diseases.



There is always a chance of unprepared hibernation due to the chilly temperature. So, installing a heater seems a wiser decision in the long run.

### MUD TURTLE WATER TEMPERATURE

The suitable water temperature for mud turtles ranges between 74 – 78 degrees Fahrenheit. Similarly, the ambient temperature should be around 78 – 82 degrees Fahrenheit. The basking temperature is slightly higher, between 85 – 92 degrees Fahrenheit.

### WATER FILTER

Dirty water entices bacterial growth and exposes the turtles to infectious diseases. Not only that. Such a filthy environment also increases the risks of parasite attack. As a result, the pet mud turtles suffer from more diseases and become vulnerable.

**The canister filters** are the perfect devices designed and built for reptile and fish tanks. These filters take in the dirty water, trap the wastes, and recirculate the freshwater.

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## WHAT DO MUD TURTLE EAT?

Mud turtles are omnivores as they eat both animal and plant matter. Their diet mainly includes worms, insects, fishes, snails, and pellets with green leafy veggies. Apart from these traditional items, these pets can eat fruits and canned food.

### ANIMAL PROTEIN

1. Worm
2. Cricket
3. Grasshopper
4. Dubia roaches
5. Earthworm
6. Silkworm
7. Redworm
8. Bloodworm
9. Flies
10. Frog
11. Carrion
12. Clam
13. Intervertebral
14. Crueses
15. Fish
16. Crayfish
17. Guppy
18. Tadpole
19. Mollusk
20. Minnows
21. Shrimp
22. Kill
23. Snail
24. Quail eggs

### VEGETABLES

1. Parsley
2. Collard greens
3. Dandelion green
4. Duckweed
5. Eelgrass
6. Endive
7. Algae
8. Kale
9. Pond lily
10. Red leaf lettuce
11. Romaine lettuce
12. Green lettuce
13. Water lettuce
14. Water hyacinth

### FRUITS

1. Apple
2. Pear
3. Berries
4. Melons

### COMMERCIAL FOOD

1. Pellets
2. Canned item
3. Frozen shrimp
4. Frozen fish

### MUD TURTLE FOOD TO AVOID

1. Sugar candy
2. Dairy items, bakery, yogurt
3. High fat
4. Burgers, hot dogs, or fast foods
5. Processed foods like sausage
6. Deep-fried items
7. Dog food

## HOW MUCH TO FEED A MUD TURTLE?

I usually recommend two methods to determine the meal quantity for mud turtles,

1. The 15-minute rule
2. The head method

### THE 15-MINUTE RULE

Offer the mud turtles more than enough food in their feeding spot. Wait for 15 – 20 minutes before removing the leftovers from the enclosure. Experts suggest turtles have a full tummy in 15 minutes if they eat even at leisure. So, with this rule, you are not over-feeding the turtles but providing them just as much as they need.

### THE HEAD METHOD

Take a container about the size of the mud turtle head if it were empty. Then fill it up with the food items, and there it is! Your turtle meal is ready. However, you have to keep updating the bowl size as the mud turtles grow fast.

## MUD TURTLE HEALTH ISSUES AND TREATMENT

### VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY

An inadequate diet is primarily responsible for hypovitaminosis or vitamin A deficiency in mud turtles. Lack of vitamin A makes the turtles more susceptible to infection and rottings.

Feeding the mud turtles vitamin A rich food is the only way to prevent and treat hypovitaminosis. Besides, vets might suggest shots and antibiotics cure the condition.

### RESPIRATORY INFECTION

A bacterial attack on the lung leads to respiratory disease in such a case. Prolonged respiratory issues often get severe and raise the risk of pneumonia.

Usually, maintaining a hygienic environment and suitable temperature in the enclosure helps the sick turtles. Besides, the vet's guidelines and instructions are a must follow.

### SHELL ROT

Aquatic turtles are most vulnerable to shell infections. It all starts with a small cut. Bacteria or fungus make their way into the turtle shell via any scratch and outgrow their population.

Shell rot is curable at home in the primary stages. Besides keeping the pets in a warm enclosure, you can wipe the wounds with antibacterial and antibiotic solutions.

### EYE ISSUE

You can not simply ignore the eye issues a mud turtle might suffer. Eyes are sensitive, and so is their health. The late treatment can even make the turtles blind.

You must take your pet to the vet and follow his suggestion.