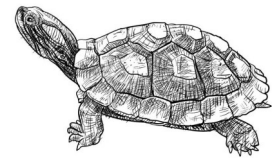




# LWAS Animal Care Sheets



## Aquatic Turtle

Water turtles may be a lot of work but they can also be a nice addition to a home or workplace.

### Quick Facts

**Average size:** 8-12 in    **Diet:** Pellets, fish, worms, veg    **Handling:** intermediate

**Average Lifespan:** 50 years                      **Enclosure:** stock tank or baby pool

### Housing

**Size:** 10gal per inch of turtle is what is recommended, so if your turtle is 6 inches long they should have at least 60 gallons worth of space. However, once they exceed a few inches in length it becomes impractical to house in a glass aquarium. Between the turtles' nails, size requirements and amount of water changes needed, a stock tank or baby pool is a better option

**Population:** Water turtles can live in groups as long as they are all of similar size

**Filtration:** turtles eat and go to the bathroom in the water, causing it to get very dirty very quickly. It is recommended to have a powerful external canister filter and also do frequent water changes. Without these steps, the water will be dirty and stinky in no time.

**Temperature:** Turtles prefer warm water, around 75 degrees.

**Lighting:** Turtles require UVB for proper health, in the form of a UVB lamp above their basking spot during the day

**Furniture:** Turtles need a basking spot where they can get out of the water and get completely dry. If they never get out of the water, they can get health issues. gravel is not needed for the bottom of a turtle pond, in fact it frequently just makes it harder to keep clean. Plants will typically just get eaten immediately but that can be enrichment for the turtles.

### Handling

Turtles are not typically friendly to handling, and many will try and scratch or bite in defense. When you need to handle your turtle, pick them up with both hands on either side of the shell, with all fingers behind the front legs for safety.

If you pick up your turtle frequently they may learn that they are safe and become less bitey, but most do not enjoy being picked up and would rather you just throw food to them and talk to them.

### Diet

Turtles can eat a variety of foods depending on the species. It is important to learn what species of turtle you have so you can feed the proper diet. Most turtles eat a base of turtle pellets with additions like fish, worms, bugs, greens, and veggies!