

Russian Tortoise Care Sheet

1. Home Sweet Home:

Russian tortoises need a cozy space! Get a spacious enclosure with a warm, dry area, and a cool spot for hiding. Use a substrate like coconut coir or cypress mulch.

2. Temperature Control:

Keep it warm during the day! Aim for 80-90°F (27-32°C) on the warm side and around 70°F (21°C) on the cool side.

At night, it's okay if it's a bit cooler.

3. Sunshine Time:

Tortoises love the sun! Give them plenty of natural sunlight, or use a UVB light for 10-12 hours a day.

This helps them grow strong and healthy.

4. Tasty Meals:

Tortoises are herbivores! Feed them a mix of dark leafy greens, veggies, and a tiny bit of fruit.

Avoid giving them high-calcium foods like spinach too often.

5. Hydration Station:

Tortoises get thirsty! Soak them in shallow water for about 20 minutes every 2-3 days.

Always keep fresh water available for them to drink.

6. Hide and Seek:

Tortoises like to chill! Add hiding spots like logs or caves.

They need a private space to nap and relax.

7. Gentle Handling:

Tortoises are slow and steady! Hold them gently and support their body.

Wash your hands before and after handling to keep both of you clean.

8. Vet Visits:

Regular check-ups are important. Find a vet who knows about reptiles.

If your tortoise acts differently or looks unwell, visit the vet.

9. Keep It Clean:

Tortoises can be messy. Clean up poop regularly and tidy up their home.

A clean environment keeps them happy.

10. Outdoor Adventures:

Russian tortoises like outdoor time! If it's sunny and warm, let them explore a secure outdoor space.

Always supervise to keep them safe.

11. Safe Plants Only:

Some plants are a no-no! Make sure the plants in their enclosure are safe and not toxic.

Check with a grown-up if you're not sure.

12. Learn Their Language:

Tortoises have their way of saying things. Watch their movements and behaviors.

Understand when they're hungry, sleepy, or just want to stroll around.

13. Shell Check-Up:

A healthy shell is a happy tortoise! Check for any cracks, bumps, or discolorations.

If you see something odd, ask your vet for advice.

14. No Wild Friends:

Don't bring wild tortoises home. Your pet tortoise is used to living with humans.

Wild tortoises should stay in the wild.

15. Enjoy the Journey:

Having a tortoise is an adventure! Enjoy growing up together and creating a happy tortoise life.

Your tortoise friend will be with you for a long time!

Taking care of a Russian tortoise is a slow and steady journey.

Enjoy every moment with your shelled companion, and you'll have a lifelong friend!