

Reeves Turtle

Reeves turtles and musk turtles are considered the easiest for beginners to care for however, reeves have a much calmer personality and musk turtles become aggressive.

Reeves turtles are a small species of turtle that range across central and eastern China, North and South Korea, Taiwan and Japan. The upper shell can vary in colouration from tan to black and their head and neck are black and yellow. They can have a life span of over 20 years in captivity but are more likely to average between 10 and 15 years.



Glossary

Reptile – A cold-blooded vertebrate with scaly skin.

Amphibian – A cold-blooded vertebrate that begins life as an aquatic animal and grows into a terrestrial adult with lungs.

Terrestrial – A ground dwelling animal.

Arboreal – An animal that lives in trees.

Diurnal – Awake in the day.

Nocturnal – Awake during the night.

UVB – Ultraviolet radiation.

Colubrid – A family of snakes.

Hybrid – Offspring from animals of different species.

Morph – Colourations created due to genetics.

Musk – Unpleasant odour released when an animal is stressed or feels threatened.

Live plants are only available on special order

If you require any further information, please ask our pet care advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

Chessington Garden Centre

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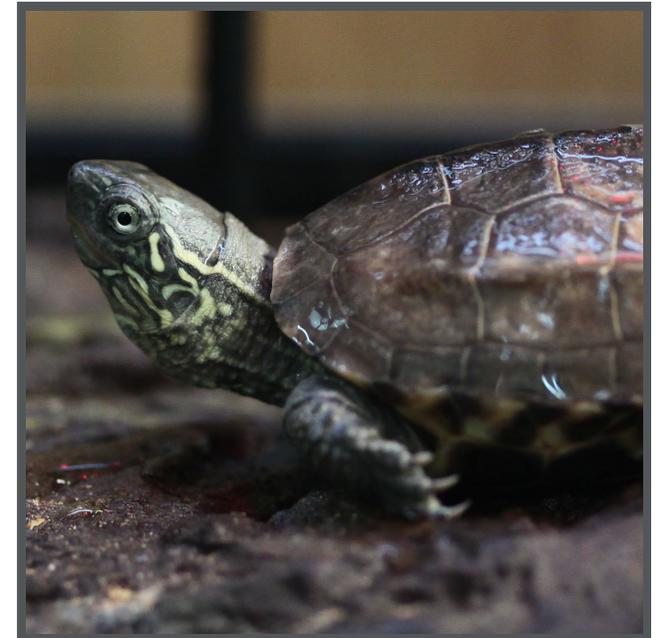
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Reeves Turtle



Care & Advice Sheet

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Size & Housing

These turtles stay fairly small and are considered to have a manageable adult size. Females will grow larger than males but on average these turtles reach around 6 inches. It is very rare for an individual to exceed 9 inches in length. They should be provided with as much space as possible as they are active and lively turtles.

90 litres of shallow water **and** land area – Minimum for 1 adult

130 litres of shallow water **and** land area – Minimum for 2 adults

The water depth should be no less than 1.5 times the length of the turtle shell and no more than 3 times the length.

Handling

These turtles should be not handled unless necessary. Occasional handling to inspect the health of the turtle or when maintenance of the tank is needed is acceptable. Although reeves turtles have a calm nature, handling may cause them to attempt to bite and scratch due to the stress it can cause.

Substrate & Furnishings

As these turtles are semiaquatic, they require a large area of water with a suitable land area to bask. They should be provided with underwater hiding places and non-toxic live or artificial plants can be provided for hiding and foraging. The tank does not necessarily need a substrate but it is recommended to use sand or gravel. If gravel is used, it must be too large for the turtle to swallow as this can cause impaction and potential health issues.

Please Note – Not all live plants are reptile friendly.

Lighting & Temperature

Provide essential UVB at 12% to create a daytime cycle of 10–12 hours a day. This is best controlled by a timer. The UVB must be replaced between 6 to 12 months. They need a basking area with a temperature of at least 29°C but no higher than 35°C – achieve this by using a heat bulb with a guard controlled by a thermostat at all times. The ambient temperature in the enclosure should be kept between 24–29°C. The temperature should be monitored at all times. Turtles will not come out and bask if the water is warmer than the basking

Food & Water

There is a wide variety of turtle foods available including pellets, dried fish and dried insects. Reeves turtles are omnivores and can be offered green leafy vegetables and aquatic plant matter such as elodea densa or water lettuce.

A heater must be used to maintain the temperature of the water between 21–27°C. Use a filter as large as possible that does not disturb the water too much. The filter sponges will need to be cleaned out once a week and when the sponges stop springing back to shape, they must be replaced. Partial water changes should be completed weekly but the water should still be tested regularly for pH, nitrate, nitrite and ammonia. A heater guard should always be used.