

THE CHELONIANS (TURTLES AND TORTOISES)

BOX TURTLE

OMNIVOROUS –

BABIES AND JUVENILES ARE MORE CARNIVOROUS- 50 % OF DIET – 1t–1T MEALWORMS, 1t-1T CRICKETS, 1t-1T WAXWORMS, AND 2-4 EARTHWORMS (WHEN AVAILABLE). AMOUNT TO FEED DEPENDS ON SIZE OF TURTLE.

ADULTS – 25% OF DIET IS ANIMAL PROTEIN 75% PLANT MATTER. OF THE PLANT MATTER ¾ IS VEGETABLES AND ¼ IS FRUIT- ESPECIALLY BERRIES (ELDER, MULBERRIES, BLACK AND RASPBERRIES). IN A VERY SHALLOW DISH THAT THE TURTLE CAN CLIMB INTO, GIVE ½ CHOPPED MOUSE, ½t MEALWORMS, ½ t CRICKETS, AND 1T MOISTENED DOG FOOD, WHICH MUST BE MIXED THOROUGHLY WITH 2T VEGETABLES CHOPPED INTO BITE SIZED PIECES AND 1t MIXED FRUIT CHOPPED IN BITE SIZED PIECES. VEGETABLES SHOULD INCLUDE: DARK LEAFY GREENS, SQUASH, SWEET POTATOES, CARROTS, PEAS, CORN, GREEN BEANS, ALFALFA, CLOVER, PEPPER. ONLY GIVE A VERY SMALL AMOUNT OF SPINACH, SWISS CHARD, BEET GREENS AS THESE CAN BE TOXIC IN LARGE AMOUNTS DUE TO OXALATES.

FRUITS CAN INCLUDE: APPLES, GRAPES, CHERRIES, PEACHES, PEARS, PLUMS, NECTARINES, FIGS, MELONS (REMOVE SEEDS) MANGOS.

TO ENTICE ANORECTIC ANIMALS TO EAT GIVE BRIGHT RED FRUITS LIKE: TOMATOES, STRAWBERRIES, and RASPBERRIES.

DUST FOOD WITH OSTEOFORM EVERY MEAL -EVERY 2 - 3 WEEKS DUST WITH MULTIVITAMINS MADE FOR REPTILES.

ALSO PROVIDE A SHALLOW WATER DISH - THE TURTLE MUST BE ABLE TO CLIMB IN AND OUT, WATER DEPTH SHOULD BE NO DEEPER THAN THE TURTLE'S CHIN WHEN HEAD IS RETRACTED. THEY DO NOT SWIM AND WILL DROWN IF SUBMERGED. THEY PREFER TO DEFECATE IN THEIR WATER BOWL AND IT SHOULD BE CLEANED EVERY DAY. CONSTIPATION MAY RESULT IF THE TURTLE IS NOT ALLOWED TO SOAK AT LEAST THREE TIMES A WEEK.

HOUSE IN A GLASS TANK AND PROVIDE A HIDE BOX AND UV, FULL SPECTRUM LIGHTING.

TORTOISES: GOPHER, HINGEBACK, YELLOW-FOOTED, RED-FOOTED

HERBIVOROUS WITH 85 % OF DIET FROM VEGETABLES, PRIMARILY DARK LEAFY GREENS CHOPPED TO BITE SIZED PIECES, PLUS ANY OF THE OTHER VEGETABLES LISTED FOR BOX TURTLES. 10 - 15 % MIXED FRUITS CHOPPED INTO BITE SIZED PIECES, ALSO FROM THE LIST OF ITEMS MENTIONED UNDER BOX TURTLES.

FEED IN SHALLOW PAN OR TRAY SO THE TORTOISE MAY CLIMB IN AND EAT. ALWAYS HAVE A SHALLOW PAN OF FRESH CLEAN WATER AVAILABLE FOR SOAKING. SINCE SIZES OF THESE ANIMALS ARE SO VARIED, SEE SUPERVISOR FOR AMOUNTS FOR INDIVIDUALS. FRESH WATER MUST BE AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES. BOTH FOOD AND WATER SHOULD BE GIVEN IN SHALLOW PANS OR TRAYS TO ALLOW THE TOROISE EASY ACCESS. SPRINKLE VITAMIN SUPPLEMENT FOR REPTILES ON FOOD ONCE WEEKLY.

SPUR THIGH

SPUR THIGH TORTOISES SHOULD NOT BE FED FRUIT MORE THAN IN MINUTE AMOUNTS. THEY CAN EASILY GET DIARRHEA AND THIS MAY MAKE THEIR GI TRACT MORE SUSEPTABLE TO PARASITIC INFECTIONS AND COLIC. FRUITS, IF ANY, SHOULD ONLY BE GIVEN AS AN OCCASIONAL TREAT, NO MORE THAN 3 TIMES A WEEK.

TURTLES: AQUATIC AND SEMI-AQUATIC: MUD, MUSK, PAINTED, SLIDER, SNAPPING, SOFT-SHELLED, STRIPED MUD.

FEEDING THESE TURTLES THAWED, PREVIOUSLY FROZEN FISH EXCLUSIVELY WILL INDUCE THIAMINE (VITAMIN B1) DEFICIENCY. TO PREVENT THIS FEED A MIXED DIET. FEED IN A LARGE SHALLOW PAN OR TRAY WITH AT LEAST 1-2 INCHES OF WATER AND CHOPPED DARK LEAFY GREENS ON TOP. GIVE 1t-3T CHOPPED FISH, ½ -1 CHOPPED AND SKINNED MOUSE, 1t-2T MEALWORMS, 1t-1T CRICKETS, ½ t WAXWORMS IF AVAILABLE, 1-3 EARTHWORMS IF AVAILABLE, AND 1T-4T LEAN, RAW BEEF CHOPPED IF AVAILABLE. THEN SPRINKLE ½t FINELY CHOPPED MIXED FRUIT ON TOP. AMOUNTS FED VARY BASED ON THE SIZE OF THE ANIMAL. SEE YOUR SUPERVISOR IF YOU ARE NOT SURE HOW MUCH TO FEED. SPRINKLE VITAMIN SUPPLEMENT FOR REPTILES ON FOOD ONCE WEEKLY.