



komodo®

CARE GUIDE



TERRAPIN/TURTLE

CONGRATULATIONS! Terrapins and Turtles make great pets and we're sure you'll enjoy each other's company for many years to come. Choosing the correct enclosure and equipment is an important first step. Komodo reptile products are designed to ensure your new reptile pet gets off to a great start.

ABOUT TERRAPINS/TURTLES

Several species of terrapins/turtles have become popular pets. Current trends tend towards keeping smaller terrapins/turtles species, such as Musk Turtles and Mud Turtles. The traditional terrapin and slider species have been recognised as growing too large for many keepers and so these are becoming less popular as a result. Musk and Mud Turtles grow to be around 12cm (5ins) and have been known to live for over 50 years.

ENCLOSURES

Enclosures W50xD40xH40cm are suitable for Musk and Mud Turtles of all ages. Up to three terrapins/turtles can be kept in this size enclosure.

WATER AND SUBSTRATE

Musk and Mud Turtles prefer shallow water which enables them to walk on the bottom with their head above the waterline. A layer of pea gravel on the base of the tank will help filtration and provide grip when your turtle walks. Remove 20% of the water each week and replace with fresh clean water. The internal filter can be adjusted to help keep the water clean, but does not create too much current for small terrapins.

HEATING

A thermostatically controlled water heater should be used to achieve a water temperature around 23 - 26°C (73 - 79°F). The Komodo Spot Lamp and Dome included in the kit will provide an ideal basking temperature. Use the Komodo Turtle Ramp to provide a raised platform under the lamp for basking. It is also important to ensure that your turtle can retreat to somewhere cool and shady when necessary.

CONTROL AND MONITORING

Check temperatures using the thermometer.

SHELTER

Make sure that there are a choice of hides and shelters spanning several parts of the enclosure. Your turtle should be able to hide away and still have access its preferred part of the thermal gradient.

LIGHTING

Pet turtles need a lot of vitamin D3 and Komodo's high powered UVB fluorescent tubes are ideal for this purpose. Set up an optimum basking spot that allows your animal to get heat and UVB in the same place, ideally 4-15cm from the UVB tube. Adding a reflector shade behind the tube will deflect more light into the enclosure, doubling the UVB available for your animal. The tube should be switched on for approximately 12 hours each day. The UVB tube can be situated under the wire top secured by the clamps with the ballast. Alternately it can be placed on top of the screen. Remember to provide areas of shade too. Plants, rocks, hides and shelters will provide different degrees of shade; something that is often overlooked when providing UVB for reptiles. Remember to replace your UVB fluorescent tube every six months as their output diminishes over time. Spotlight bulbs used as a heat source will also light the enclosure during the day time, but be sure to always switch these off at night.

ENRICHMENT

Use the cork bark provided to create floating platforms and basking areas. Artificial plants are great for dressing your vivarium and providing added shelter.

FEEDING

Komodo Terrapin Diet should be offered once a day for juveniles and every other day for adults. Komodo Terrapin Diet is a nutritionally complete food. However, all animals benefit from variety in the diet. Terrapins/turtles will enjoy assorted food items such as aquatic vegetation and/or invertebrates such as earthworms or a cricket as an occasional treat.



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HANDLING

After setting up your new enclosure, leave your terrapin/turtle to settle in before attempting to handle it. Once your terrapin/turtle has eaten a few meals in succession, then it is time to start handling. Terrapins/turtles do not generally enjoy being handled but it is important to get them accustomed to it as part of a weekly health check.

To lift your terrapin/turtle hold the sides of the shell firmly with your fingers and thumb. Be aware semi-aquatic terrapins/turtles can kick strongly, so a tight grip is recommended. Always handle them close to the ground so that if the terrapin/turtle does escape your grip, they cannot fall far or onto a hard surface. As with all animal care, thoroughly wash hands after handling your pet, items in the habitat or putting hands in the water.

IN CONCLUSION, Terrapins/Turtles are easy to care for and are fascinating to watch. To the right are some timely reminders on Terrapin/Turtle care in the handy format of a checklist:

Terrapin/Turtle Checklist

DAILY

- Check correct temperatures are being maintained
- Visually inspect terrapin/turtle
- Feed if required
- Wash hands after servicing habitat or handling terrapin/turtle
- Check water quality and top up or change if required

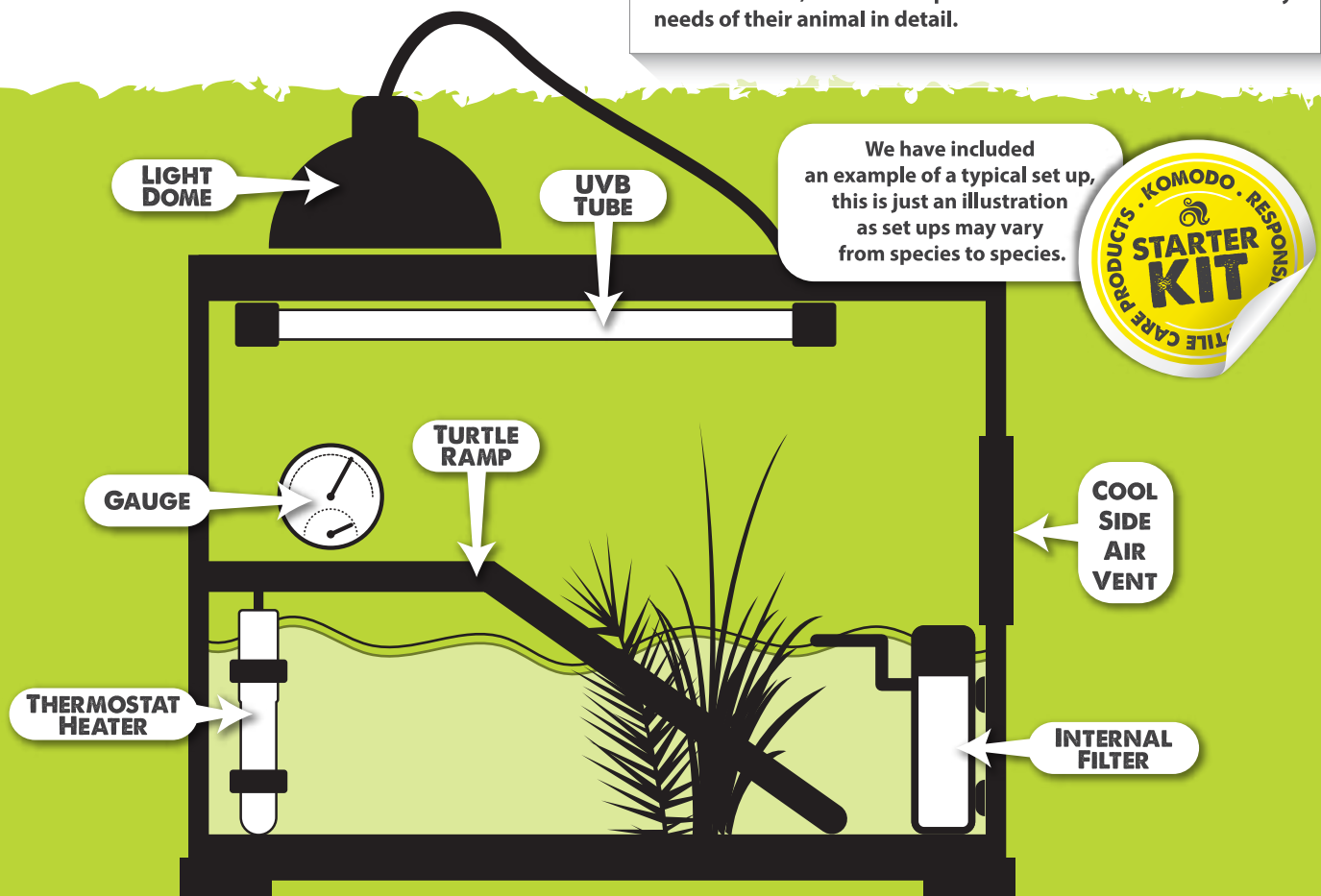
WEEKLY

- Change 20% of the water
- Clean filter sponge (using the removed tank water)
- Clean any decorative rocks, plants etc
- Physically inspect terrapin/turtle
- Weigh terrapin/turtle and record data

MONTHLY

- Replace Komodo 10% UVB Sun Strip Tube

NOTE: This basic wellbeing guide will help to get you started. It highlights the most important information that every keeper needs to know, but new keepers should research the husbandry needs of their animal in detail.



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