



# pets in the classroom



## CARE SHEET

### AQUATIC TURTLE

#### Housing

Aquatic turtles should be housed in a 55-gallon or larger aquarium with a screened lid, an underwater or canister filter for the water area, and a heat bulb over the land side of the habitat. The habitat should include a land area and water area as most aquatic turtles will leave the water to bask on dry land, but spend most of their time in the water. Aquatic Turtles can be kept with other turtles or in a habitat/pond with large fish (turtles may eat small fish). Larger habitats are required for multiple turtles. Do not house different turtle species together.

#### Environment

There are several items needed to complete the environment of an aquatic turtle including thermometers, a heat bulb, an ultraviolet light, an underwater heater, and substrate. Aquatic Turtles require 12 hours of ultraviolet light per day and also need a basking area. Because adequate temperature and humidity levels are imperative to your turtle's health, the habitat should be equipped with a thermometer to monitor water temperature, which should be 72 - 77° F, and a thermometer to monitor the temperature near the basking site, which should be 90 - 95° F. Heat bulbs can be turned off at night to provide cooler nighttime temperatures if the temperature does not drop below 70°. Use an underwater heater and a night-specific heat lamp as needed to maintain adequate temperatures. For the substrate, use slate, rock or a large smooth gravel (to large to eat). Use it to create a sloped area for land and easy entry and exit to the water, or provide a floating turtle land dock.

#### Care

A well-balanced diet for Map & Asian leaf aquatic turtles include live comet goldfish, earthworms, mealworms, bloodworms, snails and crickets. Painted wood & red ear aquatic turtles require dark, leafy green veggies and finely chopped veggies. Red ears also benefit from comet goldfish, earthworms and insects as treats. All of these aquatic turtles also need a pelleted commercial diet. Juveniles need to be fed daily, while adults should be fed every other day. They need to be fed in water to eat and their food should be sprinkled with a calcium supplement daily and a multi-vitamin supplement once or twice a week. Turtles can be messy eaters, so keep the habitat clean and remove uneaten food and feces right away. You should thoroughly clean the habitat at least once a week by placing the turtle in a secure habitat while you scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution. Rinse it thoroughly with water until all traces of the bleach smell are gone. Add clean, dechlorinated water, with a temperature range from 72-77°F before returning your turtle.