

# Reptology™

LIFE SCIENCE



## Aquatic Turtle Care Guide



PENN  
PLAX®



## “Turtle Keeping Has Never Been So Easy!”

Congratulations on your purchase of a quality Reptology™ turtle product and welcome to the wonderful world of turtle keeping. Turtles can make for fun and interactive pets. They can be fascinating to watch; many have attractive colors and markings as well as great personalities.

Below you will find some general guidelines to help you properly care for your pet turtle(s). Please make sure to research the specific needs of any turtle species you decide to keep, in order to provide them with the best care possible.

### Housing

Responsible turtle keeping includes selecting the appropriate type of housing and correct size. Glass aquariums are the most common type of housing available and are an excellent choice for most pet turtles. Other options include plastic tubs and both indoor and outdoor ponds.

The adult size of your turtle will be the determining factor with regards to how large a habitat you will need to provide. Additionally, if you are keeping more than one turtle, larger housing will also be necessary. Keep in mind that you can

also start out with smaller sized habitats for juvenile turtles and upgrade to a larger size as your turtle grows.

## Filtration

One of the most important aspects of successful turtle keeping is maintaining clean water. A reliable filtration system will help to ensure your turtle's health. Two excellent choices are the Reptology™ line of Internal Filters and the Cascade™ line of Canister Filters. With many to choose from, make sure to select one that is an appropriate size for your turtle's housing.

Turtles can be messy, so remember to change the filter's media on a regular basis according to your filter's instructions. Regardless of which filtration system you choose, you will find it necessary to do regular water changes in order to maintain the clean water your turtle requires.



**Did you know? Turtles drink the same water that they live in and produce waste in, which is why it is so critical to maintain pristine water in your turtle's housing.**

## Basking Spot

A basking spot is simply an object that allows your turtle to climb out of the water completely and bask in the light for several different reasons, which will be discussed later.

Now, not all turtles are baskers, so make sure to research whether or not your turtle requires a basking spot. However, many of the most commonly available aquatic turtles including sliders, cooters, map and painted turtles are active baskers.

A basking spot can be as simple as placing a piece of driftwood, rock or several rocks piled on top of each other in your turtle's housing. These methods are not without their drawbacks however. For example, large rocks and driftwood take away valuable swimming space from your turtle, while rocks piled on top of each other could potentially collapse on your turtle, severely injuring your pet.

A much better option is to use either a Turtle-Pier™ or Turtle-Topper™. Both of these Reptology™ products make excellent basking spots with several advantages over traditional basking options.

The Turtle-Pier™ is a floating basking platform designed to fit most turtle habitats that will automati-



cally adjust to your water level. The adjustable ramp allows your turtle easy access to the basking platform. The Turtle Pier's floating design allows your turtle more swimming space and is a great basking spot for most small to medium turtles.



Add an optional Reptology™ Internal Filter 45 to make your Turtle-Pier™ complete!

The Turtle-Topper™ is a unique and innovative basking spot that is designed for placement on top of your turtle tank. This above tank basking platform will fit most standard rectangular tanks up to 55 gallons. Many aquatic turtles are by nature active swimmers and enjoy swimming in deeper water. Since the Turtle-Topper™ is placed on top of the tank, it allows you to fill your turtle tank up almost completely to the top. Free to swim in the entire tank, the result is a healthier and happier turtle. Some additional benefits of the Turtle-Topper™ include a greater volume of water which will stay cleaner for a longer period of time. Due to the deeper water you are now free to use any type of filter you choose, including the powerful and easy to maintain Cascade™ line of Power Filters which would not normally function in the lower water levels normally maintained in turtle tanks. Also,



since the Turtle-Topper™ is supported by the top of the tank, it will hold the weight of larger and multiple turtles without sinking keeping your turtle(s) completely dry.

## Lighting and Heat

In the wild, turtles spend many hours basking in the sun. By providing the correct types of lighting we provide our turtles with three primary benefits that a turtle would normally receive from the sun, which are UVA, UVB and heat.

UV is short for Ultra-Violet, and it is very important for the health of your turtle. UVA encourages natural behavior in your turtle including but not limited to feeding and reproduction. UVB lighting allows for the synthesis of vitamin D3, which in turn allows for the absorption and metabolism of calcium. The correct UVB exposure is critical for your turtle's health and growth.

Since turtles are cold blooded animals that rely on their environment in order to regulate their body temperature, heat is the other important benefit that a turtle will receive from the correct lighting with regards to its basking spot. By providing your turtle with the appropriate UV and heat bulbs we mimic the important benefits of the sun.

A good general rule is to maintain a basking spot that falls within the range of 85-95 degrees Fahrenheit, while keeping the water temperature approximately 10-15 degrees cooler. To maintain the correct water temperature, a reliable submersible heater such as the Guardian Heater™ is

recommended. The Guardian Heater™ has the added advantage of being virtually indestructible which is important when it comes to our pet turtles whom are surprisingly strong! In order to ensure that you are maintaining the correct temperatures, it is recommended that you make use of Reptology™ Thermometers and Digital Thermometers to monitor the temperature of your turtle's habitat. Simply remove the backing from the self adhesive sticker and place in desired location.



## Feeding Time

Turtles are known for endlessly begging for food from their owners, its part of their charm. A well balanced diet is one of the keys to a healthy turtle. Offer as many different foods as possible, with a quality turtle food being the staple of their diet. Highly recommended are Reptology's™ Aquatic Turtle Pellets and Aquatic Turtle Blend as well as Pro-Balance™ Turtle Sticks. These three foods are all specially formulated and vitamin enriched to meet your turtle's nutritional needs.



As an occasional high protein treat, why not try Pro-Balance™ River Shrimp which is a favorite of most aquatic turtles.

Turtle keepers also need to recognize that many aquatic turtle's diet will change as they grow, consuming more plant matter as they mature. The addition of greens to your turtle's diet will prove very beneficial.



Calcium is necessary for the general health of turtles and for proper shell development.

Along with an appropriate diet and correct lighting, we encourage the use of Reptology™ Calci-Bone™ which is a consumable source of calcium for your pet turtle.



As well as being an additional source of calcium, we strongly encourage the use of Reptology™ Tuff-Shell M.D.™ This medicated sulfa block helps to prevent common bacterial and fungal disease and has the added benefit of also conditioning your turtle's water.

## Turtle Safety

Whether a child's or adult's pet, there are certain precautions we must make when keeping turtles. It should be stated that it is generally accepted that a turtle is not an appropriate pet for a child under the age of five.



Concern over turtles and the potential risk for them to carry the Salmonella bacteria has been a highly debated sub-

ject for years even leading to the ban on sales of turtles with a shell length of less than four inches.

Every turtle keeper should make it a regular practice to wash hands with a good antibacterial soap after coming in contact with a turtle and or its habitat. Additionally, never clean your turtle's housing in the kitchen sink. Parents should always supervise young children when they are handling a turtle. Maintaining a regular cleaning routine of both our hands and our turtle's habitat will usually make any threat of Salmonella a non issue.

Following the above general guidelines and researching the needs of the species of turtle you are interested in will help to ensure your enjoyment of your pet for many years to come. Take full advantage of the many Reptology™ turtle products available to give your turtle the best care possible.



**Happy Turtle Keeping!**

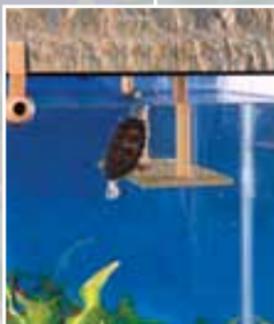
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## Basking Products

**REP600**

**Turtle-Topper™**

*Above Tank Basking Platform*



"As Seen On"

**REPTILESTV.COM**

The #1 reptile TV website

- The new way to interact with your turtle!
- Natural aquatic turtle habitat – maximum swim and basking space.
- Includes underwater resting platform. • **PATENT PENDING**



**REP601**

**Floating Turtle-Pier™**

- Automatically floats at water level.
- For turtles, frogs, newts & salamanders.



## Filters & Filter Media



**REP175**  
*Internal Filter 175*  
Aquariums up to 50 gal.



**REP70**  
*Internal Filter 70*  
Aquariums up to 15 gal.



**REP45**  
*Internal Filter 45*  
Aquariums up to 10 gal.

## Replacement Sponges & Cartridges



**REP176**  
*Bio-Sponge™ 175*

**REP71**  
*Bio-Sponge™ 70*



**REP46**  
*Bio-Sponge™ 45*



**REP72**  
*Filter Cartridge 70*



**REP177**  
*Filter Cartridge 175*

## Food & Accessories



**REP30**  
*Calci-Bone™*



**REP31**  
*Tuff-Shell™ M.D.*

**PB20**  
*Aquatic  
Turtle Pellets*



**PB21**  
*Aquatic  
Turtle Blend*



**REP40**  
*Thermometer*



**REP41**  
*Digital  
Thermometer*



**REP42**  
*Hygrometer*



**REP43**  
*Combo-Meters™*

**G1050**  
*10 Inch /  
50W Heater  
Up to 10 Gal.*



**G10100**  
*10 Inch /  
110W Heater  
Up to 20 Gal.*



**G14150**  
*14 Inch /  
150W Heater  
Up to 29L/  
30 Gal.*

# Terrarium Habitat Accessories

*For all your  
reptile needs*

## **Climber-Vine™**

- Creates a natural looking environment
- Bends to desired shape – 5 feet long

**REP400**  
(Green)



**REP401**  
(Brown)



## **Climber-Vine™ with Leaves**

- Use alone or twist around other Climber-Vines™ to create a realistic looking habitat
- Bends to desired shape – 5 feet long

**REP403**



**REP402**



**REP650**

## **Terrarium Waterfall™**

- Creates a natural healthy habitat
- Removable planter cups

more great  
reptology  
products  
coming soon!