



Reeve's Turtle (*Mauremys reevesii*)

- Also known as the Chinese Pond Turtle.
- The Reeve's turtle is a small to medium sized semi aquatic turtle found in ponds, streams, rivers, and other wetlands of eastern Asia (including China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan).
- Reeve's turtles have a solid colored, brown, olive brown, to grayish brown carapace with a slight dorsal keel. The head, neck, and limbs are dark olive to olive gray with numerous pale yellow to white stripes, streaks, and dashes on the head and neck.
- If provided the proper care, Reeve's turtles may attain longevity of 20-40 years or more.

Size

A fairly small species, Reeve's turtles usually range from 5" to 9" in size.

Housing

Reeve's turtles are a semi aquatic species that enjoy ample basking and aquatic hiding opportunities. Provide a sturdy, escape proof aquarium or commercially available turtle tub of sufficient size (at minimum a 20-30 gallon aquarium or similar sized enclosure depending on the size of your turtle, or a 10-15 gallon aquarium or other similar sized enclosure for hatchling turtles) with an elevated dock or basking area/access to dry land using a substrate dam. Reeve's turtles are not strong swimmers, and should typically be kept in relatively shallow conditions with 4-8 inches of water. A powerful water filter rated at least twice that of the amount of water in the enclosure is highly recommended for aquatic turtles, as they are messy and require frequent cleaning and regular water changes. Use a submersible water heater with a guard to maintain water temperatures of 75-85 degrees F. Substrate is optional, and foregoing it makes for easier cleaning and maintenance, but small to medium sized gravel can be used. Additional rocks, logs, live or artificial foliage can also be provided for additional foraging and hiding opportunities.

Additional overhead lighting and heating elements are necessary to maintain optimal health and nutrition for these turtles. Water temperatures should be within 70-80 degrees F and ambient temperatures should range from within 75-85 degrees F. Also provide one or more basking areas or platforms allowing these turtles access out of the water with UVB and UVA for your turtle to emerge completely from the water and monitor at around 85-95 degrees F.

Feeding/Diet

In the wild, Reeve's turtles are opportunistic feeders, feeding on carrion, small fish, snails, crustaceans, mussels/clams, and other aquatic insects and invertebrates as well as some fruits and vegetables.

In captivity, Reeve's turtles are omnivorous to carnivorous, and can be given a variety of prey or food items including commercialized turtle pellets and diets, small feeder fish, leafy greens such as turnip, mustard, and collard greens, superworms, redworms, earthworms, mealworms, feeder roaches or crickets, freeze dried shrimp, and even small frozen/thawed pinkie mice (but avoid too much protein). They will also accept other fruits and vegetables as well such as bananas, tomatoes, watermelon, and berries as well as aquatic plants such as duckweed and water lettuce. A varied diet is important, and providing some additional vitamin D3 and calcium supplementation during 2-3 times weekly feeding also is beneficial.

Handling

As with most turtles and tortoises, Reeve's turtles should be handled sparingly, or in moderation. They will tolerate some handling, but overhandling, should be avoided to prevent stress to these turtles.

****Also be sure to practice basic cleanliness and hygiene associated with proper husbandry after touching or handling any animals or animal enclosures to prevent the possibility of contracting salmonellosis or any other zoonotic pathogens****