



## Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*)

---

- Spotted turtles are a fairly small, semi aquatic pond turtle species indigenous to shallow marshes, ponds, and other wetlands of coastal eastern United States and the eastern Midwest and southeastern Canada.
- These small turtles are most often distinguished by their blackish to dark brown, streamlined carapace with variable amounts of yellow to orange-yellow spots ranging from no spots to numerous spots.
- Spotted turtles may attain longevity of 20-40 years or more with proper care. Sales of turtles under 4" in length are for bona fide educational purposes only.

### **Size**

A fairly small species, spotted turtles usually range from 3 ½" to 6" in size.

### **Housing**

Spotted turtles are a semi aquatic to semi terrestrial species. Provide a sturdy, escape proof aquarium or commercially available turtle tub of sufficient size (at minimum a 55 gallon aquarium or similar sized enclosure) with an elevated dock or basking area/access to dry land using a substrate dam. Spotted turtles are not great swimmers, and should typically be kept in relatively shallow conditions with 4-6 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 overhead lighting and heating elements are necessary to maintain optimal health and nutrition for these turtles. Provide one or more basking areas or platforms with UVB and UVA for your turtle to emerge completely from the water and monitor at around 85-90 degrees F.

### **Feeding/Diet**

In the wild, spotted 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, spotted 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. A varied diet is important, and providing some additional vitamin D3 and calcium supplementation during 2-3 times weekly feeding also is beneficial.

### **Handling**

Spotted turtles are fairly shy turtles that should be handled sparingly, or in moderation in most cases. Overhandling, however, 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\*\*