



Basic Guide of Terrapins

General Information

Terrapins in the wild, range from the United States, Canada, North America and Europe. Young terrapins can live in large numbers, however adults cannot. In the wild most terrapins are found basking in the natural sunlight to get warmth as terrapins are cold-blooded animals so they need to get heat from the outside other than heat from their blood.

Housing

Adult terrapins grow to an average size of 7-8 inches however some terrapins grow larger. A pair of adult terrapins can be kept in a pond or an aquarium of at least 75 gallons. Terrapins are known for carrying the disease salmonella; however this can be prevented by using filtration in your aquarium. They need to be kept at 74f for 86f in temperature. In the summer they do enjoy the outside weather, however in the winter they are best kept indoors unless they are fully grown and are very healthy and can put up with the cold weather. Most terrapins do not feed during the winter as much as they do in the summer; this is simply down to the weather change.

Diet

Terrapins are good feeders in general. They will eat food such as frozen turtle food, dry terrapin pellets and terrapin flake food which has a mixture of different nutrients in it that they need. If you use the frozen turtle food make sure that it is defrosted all the way through other wise it is too cold for the terrapin.

Or receipt of your Terrapin

Always ensure that your aquarium is set up at least 24 hours before introducing the terrapin. Offer the terrapin food, but do not expect it to feed immediately. It might be stressed from the journey and may need time to acclimatise. If you do handle your terrapin, **always** wash your hands afterwards just to be extra careful.

Recommended reading

Turtles and terrapins for dummies (Liz Palika) and turtles and tortoises (R.D Bartlett and Patricia Bartlett)