

Red Ear Slider Tank Set-up and Care- SOP

Objective:

To ensure appropriate tank set-up and care to maintain the health and wellbeing of the pet.

Procedure

Tank Set-up:

1. Choose a tank size that holds 10 gallons of water per inch of turtle shell length
 - a. Ex. A turtle with 5-inches of shell should be housed in a 50-gallon tank or larger
2. Fill the tank with water. The depth of the water should be twice the length of the turtle.
 - a. Ex. 6-inch long turtle (length of shell) should be housed in a tank with a minimum of a 12-inch water depth
3. Set up a basking area using a floating log that attaches to the tank, a rock, or plastic critter hide box.
 - a. Be sure the turtle can easily get on and off the basking area so that they are able to dry off
4. Place a heat lamp and a UVA/UVB bulb over the basking area
 - a. Refer to the Reptile Care Chart for temperature ranges
5. Large rocks or foliage can be placed on the bottom of the tank if available
 - a. If using rocks, ensure they are large enough that they cannot be swallowed
6. Place a submersible water heater in the water and set the temperature between 72°-75°
 - a. Place the heater in an area where the turtle cannot damage it
 - b. Refer to the Reptile Care Chart for water temperature ranges located in the Animal Care SOP binder
7. Place an aquarium water filter in the tank

Deep Cleaning:

1. Remove pet from enclosure and place in a secure temporary enclosure
2. Remove All enclosure furniture, substrate, and food/water bowls
 - a. Clean enclosure furniture and food/water bowls with Dawn and water
 - b. Soak clean furniture and dishes in a 1:10 (1C per 10 gallons of water) bleach solution or spray down with 8oz per gallon Rescue and let items sit for 10 minutes
 - c. Rinse all items thoroughly and allow to air dry
3. Empty the water in the tank
4. Remove all organic matter (sheds, feces, urates, etc.) from enclosure using Rescue
5. Spray down enclosure using 8oz per gallon Rescue, let the Rescue sit wet for 10 mins, rinse thoroughly. Allow enclosure to air dry.
6. Once complete refill tank with water, set up a basking area, and return the submersible water heater
7. Place turtle back in the enclosure once water has reached the appropriate temperature back in enclosure

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