

## **Tortoise/Box Turtle Cleaning and Care- SOP**

### **Objective:**

To ensure appropriate cleaning and disinfecting of enclosures in order to prevent the spread of illness and to maintain health of the pet.

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### **Procedure**

#### **Daily Spot Cleaning:**

1. Remove any feces, urates, and uneaten food (this includes insects)
2. Remove any soiled substrate and replace with new substrate
  - a. Appropriate substrates are repti-bark or coconut fiber
  - b. Refrain from using newspaper as the animals like to burrow
3. Wipe down any soiled areas in the enclosure using Dawn soap and water solution
  - a. This includes any foliage and furniture in the enclosure
4. Remove food and water dishes
  - a. Clean dishes with Dawn soap and water
  - b. Place fresh food and water in enclosure
  - c. See Reptile Care Chart for appropriate diet, water source, and calcium source
5. Fill out the Reptile Maintenance Chart located in the Animal Care SOP binder

#### **Monthly 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 bleach solution (1C per 10 gallons of water) 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. Remove all organic matter (sheds, feces, urates, etc.) from enclosure using Rescue
4. Spray down enclosure using 8oz per gallon Rescue, let the Rescue sit wet for 10 mins, rinse thoroughly. Allow enclosure to air dry.
5. Once enclosure is dry place new substrate, clean furniture, and fresh food and water
6. Place turtle back in enclosure

#### **Lighting:**

1. Refer to the Reptile Care Chart for appropriate lighting and enclosure temperatures.