AQUATIC TURTLE care sheet

CAGING NEEDED
Appropriate size habitat, at least a 40 gallon breeder tank with a screened lid so the turtle can’t escape. A good rule of thumb is 10 gallons per inch of turtle; adult turtles will require more room. House adult aquatic turtles alone and do not house different turtle species together.

BEDDING & WATER NEEDS
Slate, rock, or a large smooth gravel, too large to eat, is optional; water for swimming area; some aquatic turtles require a shallow area they can rest in the water with their head sticking out. Red ears require a turtle dock area to bask out of the water. Other turtles require dry land areas outside of the water. Create slopes for easy entry and exit.

LIGHTING & UVB
UVB rays with full spectrum lighting for 10-12 hours a day is required. Incandescent lighting is needed for basking area.

TEMPERATURES & HUMIDITY
Temperature gradient (95°F for the warm end/basking area and 75°F for the cool end/water); recommend radiant heat; use an incandescent light or ceramic heater as primary heat source.

DIET
Map & Asian leaf: live comet goldfish, earthworms, mealworms, bloodworms, snails and crickets. Painted wood & red ear: dark, leafy green veggies and finely chopped veggies. Red ears also benefit from comet goldfish, earthworm. These aquatic turtles need a pelleted commercial diet.

MISC. INFORMATION
Turtles do not like frequent handling and may bite when frightened.

AVERAGE SIZE
5 - 11 inches long, depending on the species

LIFE SPAN
20 - 40+ years

SHOPPING LIST FOR NEEDED SUPPLIES
- Appropriately Sized Habitat
- Book About Aquatic Turtles
- Commercial Aquatic Turtle Food
- Treats
- Substrate
- Heat Light
- Heat Fixture
- Under Tank Heater
- UVB Lighting
- Vitamin and Calcium Supplement
- Cricket Keeper
- Cricket Food