

## **Red Eared Slider**

Scientific Name: *Trachemys scripta elegans*

Native to: North America

Maximum Length: 6 – 12 in.

Life Span: 20 - 40 years.

### **Characteristics:**

Red Eared Sliders are an omnivorous aquatic turtle. They are known for their distinctive red streak on each side of their face. While they are an aquatic turtle, they will emerge out of the water to bask in a dry, warm area. Red Eared Sliders do not like frequent handling and may try to bite when frightened.

### **Care tips:**

**Enclosure:** An adult Red Eared Slider will need at least a 40 – gallon tank. As they are growing it is good to have at least 10 gallons per inch of the turtle. Make sure that the habitat has enough room for the turtle to comfortably move around. Aquatic turtles drink the water that they swim in so it is good to change out frequently. Remove uneaten food and feces right away. Do not house different species of turtle together.

**Substrate:** Slate, rock, and gravel that are too large for the turtle to eat work well. Red Eared Sliders require a turtle dock area to bask out of the water. Create a basking area that has easy entry and exit to water. Some turtles also prefer a shallow water area where they can relax with their head sticking out of the water.

**Habitat:** Red Eared Sliders need clean, dechlorinated water with a temperature range from 70 - 75°F.

**Temperature and Lighting:** These turtles need a temperature gradient of 95°F for the warm basking area and 75°F for the cool water end. Use a basking bulb and submersible heater as their heat source. UVB rays with full spectrum lighting for 10 – 12 hours a day is required. Incandescent lighting is needed for basking area.

**Food and Water:** Fresh, chlorine free, clean water should be available and in the tank at all times. Feed Red Eared Sliders daily. These turtles need to be fed in the water to eat. Red Eared Sliders need a pelleted commercial diet. Commercial turtle treats and freeze-dried bugs/fish may be given as treats.