



HATCHING UP UNIQUE PETS SINCE 1985™

CARING FOR YOUR RIVER COOTER TURTLES

Scientific Name: *Pseudemys concinna*
Native to: *Central and Eastern United States*
Maximum Length: *Females up to 16 inches, males up to 10 inches*
Life Span: *40 + years*



CHARACTERISTICS:

River Cooters are large turtles with relatively flat shells. River Cooters have a brown to black carapace, with reddish tinges, and the plastron is yellow, orange or reddish with prominent patterns of orange and black. Their head stripes are yellow, but may even seem orange. These gorgeous turtles are good for a beginner. River Cooters are typically found in large rivers with clear water, gravel river beds, and aquatic plants.

CARE TIPS:

Enclosure: Juvenile River Cooters can be kept in a 20 - 30 gallon long tank, adults require much larger accommodations. A minimum 300 gallon tank is needed to house an adult River Cooter.

Substrate: Reptile sand or even fine pea gravel.

Habitat: Cooters do well in aquariums when the water is kept clean and filtered. Make sure to provide plenty of space for your River Cooter including a basking area where they can get completely out of the water and swimming area with water deep enough to swim.

Temperature and Lighting: Provide UVB lighting, a basking area of 85 degrees and water temperature of 75 degrees are recommended for these turtles. The basking platform must allow River Cooters enough room to stretch out and fully dry their shell and plastron to avoid shell rot.

Food and Water: River Cooters are omnivores. Their diet should consist of a mix of pelleted turtle food, crickets, mealworms, and leafy greens such as romaine, collard, and turnip greens.