



HATCHING UP UNIQUE PETS SINCE 1985™



CARING FOR YOUR WESTERN PAINTED TURTLES

Scientific Name: *Chrysemys picta bellii*

Native to: North Western and Central United States

Maximum Length: 4 - 10in

Life Span: 25 to 30 years.

CHARACTERISTICS:

The Western Painted Turtle lives in slow-moving fresh waters, from south western Canada through the North Western and Central United States. These turtles are commonly mistaken for slider turtles but are distinguished by their flatter, dark smooth shells while the bottom of the shell has a red pattern that spreads to the edges. The Western Painted Turtle is the largest subspecies of the painted turtle species.

CARE TIPS:

Enclosure: Western Painted Turtles are very active swimmers therefore a minimum 20 gallon tank is required for an adult male to insure adequate space. These turtles should have a safe underwater hiding place where they cannot get trapped and drown.

Substrate: Reptile sand or even fine pea gravel.

Habitat: Make sure to provide plenty of space for your turtle, including a basking area where they can get completely out of the water and swimming area with water deep enough to swim. Water should be kept clean and filtered.

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 the turtle enough room to stretch out and fully dry their shell and plastron to avoid shell rot.

Food and Water: Western Painted turtles 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.