



CARING FOR YOUR AFRICAN SIDE NECK TURTLE

Scientific Name: *TPelusios spp and Pelomedusa spp*

Native to: *Eastern and Southern Africa*

Maximum Length: *12 inches*

Life Span: *25+ years*

CHARACTERISTICS:

African Side Necks can become very interactive pets. They can even be trained to eat directly from your hand. However, because of their nibbling nature, these pets are best suited for older children/adults. These turtles are named because they are unable to tuck their heads entirely inside their shells so they tuck them to the side instead.

CARE TIPS:

Enclosure: Juvenile turtles are easily housed in a standard 10 or 20 gallon aquarium. Adults require a minimum of a 75 gallon filtered aquarium filled 1/2 to 3/4 of the way with water.

Substrate: Reptile sand or even fine pea gravel. If gravel is used, it should be large enough that it cannot be eaten.

Habitat: Make sure to provide plenty of space for your turtle, including a basking area where it can get completely out of the water and a swimming area with water deep enough to fully submerge and swim.

Temperature and Lighting: Provide UVB lighting, a basking area of 90 degrees and water temperature of 75F to 80F. The basking platform must allow the turtle enough room to stretch out and fully dry its shell and plastron to avoid shell rot. Place the basking light on one end of the tank and the other end should be kept as a cooler area. A rock or log, resting firmly on the bottom of the terrarium, is ideal for the basking area.

Food and Water: African Sidenecks 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. Turtle pellets should include the calcium and other vitamins and minerals that your turtle needs.