Some Interesting Information and Tips on Having Turtles As Pets by Cody

Article published on December 23rd 2011 | Art

Today a lot of animal lovers prefer having tortoise as their pet. Many people feel having tortoise as a pet can be fun and interesting. Nevertheless, if you don't know the exact requirements of the tortoise, then there are possibilities that it may die pretty soon.

There are oodles of turtle species in the world. They can be broadly categorized into seven types. And they are soft-shelled turtles, pond and marsh turtles, mud and musk turtles, snapping turtles, sea turtles, side-necked turtles, and tortoises that live only on land.

The Box Turtle and the Red Ear Slider are the most common pets. They are available as baby turtles and tortoises in the pet shops. The Red Eared Slider comes in beautiful color of dark olive green with yellow or green stripes on its body. However, the green color of the shell slowly fades and turns blackish as the baby turtle gets older. The male turtle is generally shorter than the female but has a longer and thicker tail when compared to a female turtle. The freshwater turtles have webbings in their feet which helps them to swim effortlessly.

The Ornate box turtle is seen with yellow strips on its brown shell. However, they can be differentiated from common box turtles by the presence of a yellow line on their shell. The Ornate box turtle is more hard-bitten than the common box turtle.

The box turtle is of many types. They are Ornate, three-toed, Gulf Coast, Eastern, and Florida box turtles. Three-toed box turtles can be seen in colors of plain brown, or their shells enriched with yellow lines or spots. These types of turtles are relatively small and the colors of their skin varies from grayish brown to plain brown with traces of yellow, orange, red or white colors on their legs and head.

The life expectancy of a box turtle is around 40-50 years while the Red Eared slider turtles can live for about 50-70 years. The size of a box turtle is around from 4-7 inches while the Red eared slider turtles can grow up to 12 inches. You may consider the following options when you prepare housing for your turtles and tortoises. Tortoises can stay under the water for long but they also need atmospheric air for their survival. They must be kept exposed to natural sunlight or at least to the glow of UVA/UVB producing bulbs. An outdoor pen would be a good option to house your tortoise. Most tortoises and turtles prefer living in spacious areas, so ensure that their tank is large enough to move around comfortably. Box turtles and tortoises prefer living in outdoor pens. In addition to the formulated foods, you can also include fresh fruits and vegetables to their diet. If you have a bunch of tortoises of both sexes, there would be a high probability of breeding. So, you need to provide a suitable environment for them to breed. Adding leaves, shrubs and soft dirt in their tank will constitute a suitable environment for breeding.

If you a new tortoise pet owner, I would suggest keeping little kids away from your turtles would be a good option as the tortoise carry a potential risk of an infection called Salmonella which may attack the little ones.

As a warning, I would like to suggest all tortoise lovers not to bore holes on their shells in which pet owners pass a string through the shell of the tortoise for the purpose of tethering. Instead, preparing a small fence to captivate your pet would be a good alternative. And, if at any point, you feel your tortoise is not doing well, it's always advisable to take your pet immediately to a local vet who is a reptile specialist and not the normal vet.

So, that's about it guys. To share my personal experience with tortoise, I've just bought half a dozen of tiny box tortoises. I got this motivation to buy turtles when I saw a program on the Animal planet entailing the life of turtles on my TV powered by Dish Network. It was really interesting and inspiring to know about this gentle species. Hopefully, I'll get to know more about these little ones as they grow up.

Article Source:
http://www.articleside.com/art-articles/some-interesting-information-and-tips-on-having-turtles-as-pets.htm - Article Side

Cody - About Author:
Cody is a freelance writer and a pet lover. He enjoys watching TV programs entailing marine animals on his cable TV powered by a Dish Network.

Article Keywords:
turtles, tortoises, satellite tv, dish tv

You can find more free articles on Article Side. Sign up today and share your knowledge to the community! It is completely FREE!