

Sulcata Tortoise

Latin Name	Geochelone sulcata
Native to	Sub-Saharan Africa arid regions
Maximum Length	24–30 inches
Life Span	100 years or more is possible, if properly maintained
Enclosure	Use screen top terrarium only. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 gallon for single hatchling (2-3 inches)• 50 gallon for single yearling (4-6 inches) or multiple hatchlings• tortoise table or outdoor shelter for adults (6 inches and larger) Provide 2 shelters, such as a large half-log or ceramic cave.
Substrate	cypress mulch (Forest Floor), timothy hay, reptile carpet (EcoCarpet)
Temperature	day 85–88°F, basking 95–100°F, night 72–75°F infrared heat lamp, ceramic heat emitter
Light	diurnal/crepuscular UVB fluorescent lamp (ReptiSun 10.0) and basking lamp for 12–14 hours daily
Humidity	desert, less than 40% Soak hatchlings and yearlings in a shallow dish (½ inch) of warm water every other day.
Water	Provide purified water in a shallow ceramic bowl.
Food	herbivorous Feed daily to every 2 days: timothy hay, commercial tortoise food, and any combination of produce such as chopped collard/mustard greens, chard, cabbage, tomatoes, carrot, corn, zucchini, apples, bananas, strawberries, peaches, or melon.
Sexing	Maturity reached when shell is about 12–15 inches long. male: concave plastron near tail, wide angled anal scutes compared to females female: flat plastron, comparatively longer tail than males
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Remove waste, spot clean substrate.▪ Clean water bowl and replace water.▪ Soak hatchlings/yearlings in warm water.▪ Feed hay and produce.