



Sulcata Tortoise Rehoming Package

African Sulcata tortoise

This species can live **for over 100 years**.

Sulcata tortoises (*Geochelone sulcata*) also known as the African spurred tortoise, are a unique **pet tortoise** to care for.

They are one of the largest tortoise species in the world and are often seen in zoos and conservatories. Despite this, the sulcata tortoise has also become quite popular in the reptile trade in recent years.

Pros

Relatively easy to care for once their enclosure is built.

A very long lifespan which means they will be with you for life.

Outgoing and individual personalities.

Cons

Burrowing behaviors can lead to lots of damage in your yard.

Giant size requires a lot of space to roam and graze.

Need very hot temperatures and a basking spot greater than 100 degrees.



Tortoise Husbandry

Daily Chores

- Fresh water daily
- Spot clean daily (deep clean 2x a month)
- Use F10 Veterinary Disinfectant
- Fresh food daily with supplements.



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Vets and Insurance

- Exotics Vets are not easy to find, here in Brighton we use Coastways in Kemptown as they have an exotic vet called Celine. It is essential you find an **exotic vet**.
- There is insurance you can get for your reptile through Exotic Direct.

<https://exoticdirect.co.uk/>

Why Tortoises must be kept indoors in the UK

In the UK, the UV index is not strong enough for Tortoises to thrive in the garden without added lighting and heating.

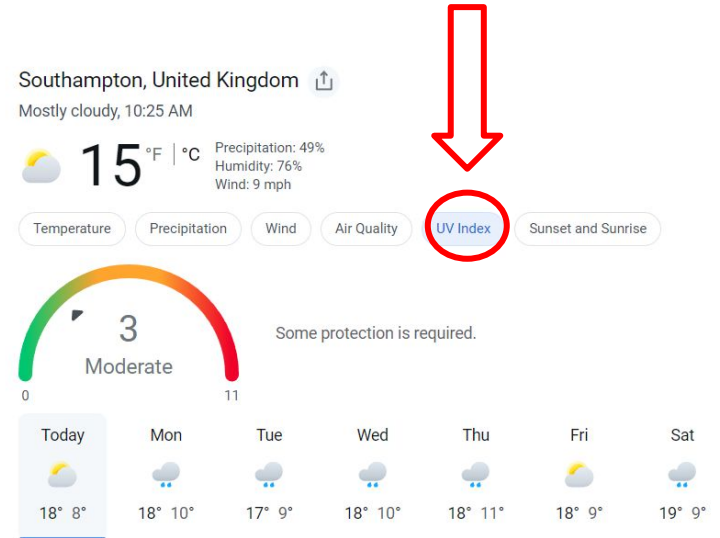
During the peak of summer, you can take your tortoise out in the garden and let them forage for food. Ensure your tortoise is in an enclosed area like a rabbit run. Tortoises should never be left alone outdoors.

Garden time should be supervised at all times.

Also ensure your tortoise has access to water when outside.

What UV Index is suitable for Sulcata tortoises to go outside? **4-6 UV Index**

Using your weather app on your phone or computer can tell you the UV Index for that day



Sulcata Tortoise Diet

Their diet should consist largely of grasses and hay, with vegetation such as weeds making up the remainder of the diet.

Any plants fed should be free of any pesticides or fertilizer.

Salad and vegetables should only be offered if these are not available.

Supplementation is important, particularly with supermarket bought goods and a vitamin and mineral powder with high calcium content is required. It is important to ensure the phosphorous content is low.

Cuttlefish is often fed to tortoises and although it is to be encouraged it should not be relied upon as a calcium source.

Water should always be available and a container is required which will allow the tortoise to submerge completely. This should be changed daily. Bathing is also to be encouraged and twice a week the tortoise should be placed in a shallow bath of warm water



Arcadia reptile created Optimised52 which is a tortoise food you just add water too. This is already supplemented and contain 52 weeds, botanicals and grasses. There is also FlowerBoost which can be added to fresh foods. This is a fabulous food we use regularly here at the RSPCA Reptile Rescue.

Sulcata Tortoise Diet

50% of the diet should be made up of hay and grass but other dietary items include:

- Dandelion
- Hawkweed
- Timothy Hay
- Chickweed
- Lawn Grass (Not Clippings)
- Dock leaves
- Clover
- Plantain (all varieties)
- Sow thistle
- Bindweed
- Milk Thistle
- Groundsel
- Honeysuckle
- Parsley
- Sedum
- Sage
- Grapevine
- Coriander
- Hawkbits
- Watercress Fine in moderation (up to 10% of the diet)
- Spring greens
- Carrot Tops Lettuce (all varieties)
- Hibiscus
- Rocket

Diets should always be supplemented with appropriate vitamin and mineral supplementation as advised by your vet

Supplementing your tortoises Diet

The use of high-quality reptile supplements in the correct amounts at the correct frequencies will help to ensure optimum bone health and skin health for your reptile, and help to avoid a plethora of nutrition-related illnesses such as metabolic bone disease.

For Tortoises

EarthPro-A on every feed with CaMg every 4th feed on all items. A quality powder with D3 and A at feed 6 or 8 as a cycle. Also, FlowerBoost can be added into the usual fresh diet at 10% of the volume of the feed.

Check out the feeding schedule using the link below

<https://www.arcadiareptile.com/earthpro/feeding-programme/herbivores/>



Minimum rehoming Requirements for a Baby/Young Sulcata Tortoise

6ft by 3ft Tortoise table, enclosure or adapted vivarium.

Arcadia Reptile ProT5 39W 12% Kit £65

100W Arcadia Reptile Halogen £15

Dimming thermostat £55

Arcadia Reptile Clamp Lamp. £20

Substrate and decor is up to you. We advice a Sand X Soil mix as substrate and a minimum of 2 hides and a water dish.

You can source all electrics and decor from us as we run a shop



Minimum rehoming Requirements for an Adult Sulcata Tortoise

Require **WALK IN ENCLOSURE** this will vary depending on the individual tortoise needs

We recommend the Thermal zoo pro (This includes 2x UVB unit and 2x Heat sources)

You will need:

2x Arcadia Reptile ProT5 24W 12-14% (Depending on the distance between bulb and basking spot)

2x 100W Arcadia Reptile Halogen (Depending on how big your space, supplemental heating may be required)

All Heat sources must be controlled by a Dimming thermostat



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