

Hermann Tortoise

Testudo hermanni boettgeri (Eastern Hermann)



An attractive, personable, small sized, hardy Mediterranean tortoise species.

Friendly and curious, active tortoises and relatively easy to care for given a correct environment.

We personally know of specimens upwards of 70 years old.

Natural Range Originating in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Romania, Serbia, Turkey.

Size Reaching a size of 6-8 inches sometimes a little larger.

Diet Hermann tortoises eat a Herbivorous Diet- (please see the Herbivorous diet sheet) and enjoy outdoor time in the summer with access to varied grazing area and natural sunlight.

Indoor Enclosure These tortoises are active and will happily use all their space in a tortoise table set up. Provide a few hides to make them feel secure. Provide heat and high output UV light. Provide a 12-hr

photo period. Although they are a more arid species remember to offer moisture in hide areas, we use moistened sphagnum moss and provide constant access to clean water which they do use.

Substrate We use a base layer of fine coconut coir and top it off with either bark mulch or coarse coconut coir. Our nest area contains a deep coconut coir mix.

Temperatures Provide a basking spot of 90-95F and a low end of low 70's F but a drop down to 60F is still acceptable overnight and natural for them.

Outdoor Enclosure We also added a mesh roof to protect from wildlife such as raccoons, birds of prey etc. Hermanns do not tend to dig down like the Russian tortoises, but they will make hollow scrapes in the soil to rest in on occasion. Try growing some edible plants (see suggestions in the diet sheets) in their outdoor set ups and provide shelters so that they can shelter from the sun on hot days. If you do not have access to a garden even a few minutes a few times a week supervised outdoors in the sunshine will be beneficial to your tortoise

Behaviour Hermanns are tough hardy characters and rarely shy. They are sweet and curious and make great pets even for caring children, with adult supervision. Two males will often fight, and they can damage each other and worse, most girls can get along, but it is not guaranteed. Both male and female Hermann tortoises will be happy kept as an individual pet tortoise. We had one of our adult Hermann girls go to live with a child that needed a quiet therapy pet-she is much loved and will be a wonderful long-term companion for the child throughout his life.

Written by Louise Bonser

Prairie Hills Tortoises



A very muddy baby Hermann!