

HATCHLING CARE



Please ensure that you have a suitable setup ready before your baby arrives at your home.

This gives you an opportunity to adjust temperature accordingly and such ready for baby.

We find that timers work best for lighting rather than remembering when to switch it on and off every day.

Provide a shallow water bowl as baby can easily drown in the dish-we use shallow lids from food containers, or shallow small terracotta plant bases. Try to situate the dish away from the heat bulb in case baby flips over.

When your baby arrives, you need to allow him to adjust to the room temperature *slowly* as sometimes in shipping process they are a little on the cooler side which is safer than over heating. After adjusting 30 minutes or so you can soak baby in shallow warm (human baby warm) water no higher than halfway up baby's shell-remember tortoises cannot swim. Allow baby to soak for 20 minutes or so and then place baby in his new set up with some food.

If baby does not eat right away do not worry, baby has had a busy day travelling and everything is a change for them. My babies are very well started before they leave my home, eating a wide variety of foods and gaining weight so a day or two of not eating regularly will not be harmful.

The baby might hide a lot in the beginning especially the Red foot or Cherry head babies. Its natural for hatchling tortoises to want to hide and feel secure and as they grow, they become more confident and come out of their shell so to speak. Feel free to take baby out of hiding and offer a daily soak followed by some food.

I appreciate how enthusiastic you and your family may be upon baby arriving but try hard to allow baby to settle in peacefully. Once he is eating and active for you handling should not be a problem. These early days will fly by and you have many years of enjoyment ahead of you as tortoises are so long lived.

Please protect your baby from other household pets too such as cats and dogs and supervise children with your tortoise.

If you have concerns or just want to ask questions always know we are here to help you long term. We have stayed in close contact with many of our customers over the years and we really find that enjoyable.