



Adult Slider Care

Tank

- Watertight aquarium as large as possible to accommodate for growth of turtle
- Use clean aquarium rock and gravel to build slope from the wet end (the pool) to the dry end (the land)
- Provide an area of dry land for the turtle to easily “haul out”, dry off, and bask
- Floating or anchored cork rafts or logs are another alternative
- Avoid rough rocks that can scratch the turtle’s shell
- Bottom should be bare or covered with gravel, if using pebbles, they should be bigger than the turtle can swallow

Water

- At least 1.5 to 2 times the turtle’s total length in depth
- Length needs to be at least 4-5 times the turtle’s total body length
- Front to back width should be at least 2-3 times the turtle’s body length
- Enough room for your turtle to swim, dive, and easily flip itself to a normal position if it gets turned upside-down
- Water temperature should be maintained between 75-86°F (a submersible water heater or a waterproof heat pad placed underneath the tank can be used to heat the water) and monitored with an aquarium thermometer
- Water should be filtered, and a 10-20% water change should be performed weekly
- Uneaten food and feces should be removed daily

Area Heating

- Basking area that sits above the water line
- Bright, white light focused on the basking area that heats the area to approximately 90-95°F during the day
- A red basking light should be on at night to keep the basking spot around 85-90°F
- Temperature should be monitored continuously with multiple thermometers

Lighting

- UVB supplement
 - Within 12 to 18 inches of the turtle’s basking area
 - Light should not be blocked by glass or plastic that can filter the UV rays
 - Change the light bulb every 6 months
- Or allow the turtle to bask and soak in direct sunlight

Adult Slider Diet

Adults can be fed once every 2-3 days

Commercial Diets

- No more than 25% of total diet
- Aquatic turtle pellets and sticks
- Trout chow

Animal protein

- No more than 25% of total diet
- Live feeder (minnows) fish
- Insects
- Frozen/dried krill
- Earthworms
 - Buy from reptile store or aquarium

Plant material

- 50% or more of the diet
- Dark leafy greens such as collards, mustard, dandelion green, romaine lettuce, broccoli
- Shredded carrots, squash, green beans, apples, melons
- Edible aquatic plants

Vitamin supplements

- Reptile multivitamin twice a week