

How To Take Care of Cooter Turtles



Here is a brief insight on how to take care of **Cooter Turtles**

Housing	minimum 125-gallon tank
Basking temperature	80 – 90° F
Water temperature	75 – 80° F
Ambient temperature	80° F
Diet	Worm, insect, fish, shrimp, carrot, endive, lettuce, leafy vegetables, apple, pellets, supplements

Cooters are one of the largest turtle species in North America. They are hard-shelled aquatic turtles. The name cooter is derived from Kuta, meaning turtle in Bambara and Malinke.

Cooter Diet

Diet of baby cooters

- Cricket
- Mealworm
- Bloodworm
- Silkworm
- Earthworm
- Dubia Roaches
- Locusts

Diet of young turtles

- Mice
- Shrimp
- Feeder fish
- Kale
- Red leaf lettuce
- Romaine lettuce
- Carrot etc.

Cooter Tank Size



10 - 20 Gallon for the babies



100 - 125 Gallon for the babies

As the turtles grow, you have to keep upgrading tanks. In most cases, managing adequate space indoors for large tanks is a hassle for the owners. For such reasons, experts suggest raising adult cooters in an **outdoor** location.

What Should You Put In A Cooter Turtle Tank?



Basking Dock



Heating Lamp



UV Light



Water Filter



Tank Heater

Suitable Temperature And Humidity

Water Temperature	75 – 80 degrees Fahrenheit
Ambient Temperature	80 degrees Fahrenheit
Basking Temperature	80 – 90 degrees Fahrenheit

How Much Should You Feed A Cooter

1. The 15-minute Rule:

A cooter eats the required amount of food in **15 minutes**. So, you have to provide your turtle with more than enough food and let it eat for **15 – 20 minutes**. Then remove the leftovers, and your turtle is all recharged again.

2. The Head Method:

Take a bowl similar to your cooter's head if it were empty. Now fill it with the meal and offer it to your turtle. Feeding your turtle with the head method is more convenient as it eliminates food waste. However, you have to keep upgrading the container size with the growing age of the turtle.

How Much Should You Home Treatments

1. Hypovitaminosis

Imbalanced diet can cause vitamin A deficiency in cooters leading to hypovitaminosis.

Symptom: Swollen eyes, weight loss, mouth infection, respiratory illness, etc.

Treatments: Antibiotic medicine or shots with a vitamin A-rich diet can cure hypovitaminosis in cooters.

2. Metabolic Bone Disease

Cooters with MBD undergo abnormal shell and bone growth.

Symptom: Bumpy legs, jaw, bone, soft scutes, and irregular walking patterns.

Treatments: Installing high-quality UV light and providing a balanced diet can aid in recovering the pets.

3. Obese

Overfeeding the cooters or filling up the meals with unnecessary items leads to obesity.

Symptom: Fat accumulation on necks and legs.

Treatments: Following a strict meal measuring technique and feeding schedule can prevent and cure obesity in cooters.

4. Parasite Attack

A filthy and unhygienic habitat is the perfect home for parasites.

Symptom: Vomiting, diarrhea, pooping blood, etc.

Treatments: Keeping the enclosure clean and deworming the cooter once a year can prevent this condition.

Cooter Breeding Care

- Select a healthy adult pair and prepare them for the event by feeding well.
- Keep the male-female ratio in the habitat at 1:5 for successful mating.
- Separate the group after the copulation and wait for the gravid turtles to lay eggs.
- You have to surround the habitat with sand and moist soil so that the turtles can deposit their eggs there.
- You have to collect the eggs and put them in an incubator.
- Low range temperature (50 – 60 degrees Fahrenheit) produces male cooters and hotter temperature (75 – 80 degrees Fahrenheit) yields females.