

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF MATA MATA TURTLE?



A warm and slightly acidic freshwater area is what mata mata turtles need. While lights and heaters keep the enclosure warm, a proper filtration system is required for the water area.

SPECIES SUMMARY:

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Chelus fimbriata
COMMON NAME	Mata mata
FAMILY	Chelidae
HABITAT PREFERENCE	Slow moving freshwater
AVERAGE ADULT SIZE	16 – 20 inches
FOOD HABIT	Carnivorous
AVERAGE PRICE	\$220 – \$700

HOW TO TAKE CARE

TANK SIZE:

80 – 150 gallons aquarium accommodates

Average carapace length of 10 -15 inches.



200 gallon+ capacity

pet grows more than 10 - 15 inch.

WATER FILTER:

Changing the water manually every other day is not an intelligent choice. Instead, install a powerful tank filter to eliminate the filth from the water and make it reusable. Filters with twice the water capacity of the turtle's size are always recommendable to keep the water clean.



TANK HEATER:

A 150 – 300 watt tank heater would fit the hatchling or juvenile mata mata turtle habitat. For adult turtles, you might have to set up multiple heaters or one powerful device to keep the water warm.



LIGHTING:

Keep the heating and UV lamps on only during the daytime, for 10 – 12 hours. The pets do not require any light at nighttime.



TEMPERATURE REQUIREMENT FOR MATA MATA TURTLE

WATER TEMPERATURE 80 – 90 degrees Fahrenheit

BASKING TEMPERATURE 90 – 95 degrees Fahrenheit

AIR TEMPERATURE 80 – 85 degrees Fahrenheit

SUBSTRATE AND DECORATION

- Medium-sized pebbles mixed with sand
- Live plants
- Debris
- Duckweed
- Moss
- Hornwort

MATA MATA TURTLE DIET

- Bloodworm
- Cricket
- Crayfish
- Earthworms
- Frozen krill
- Gambusia
- Goldfish
- Guppies
- Mealworm
- Minnows
- Mollies
- Mussels
- Platies
- Smelt
- Snail
- Shrimp

HEALTH ISSUES

IRRITATION

Basic water or a strong acidic environment can cause skin irritation to these creatures.

Growing sphagnum moss in the habitat or mixing baking soda helps maintain a suitable pH range. In addition, you can keep an aquarium test kit at home to check the water acidity from time to time.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As mata mata turtles live underwater for long hours, they are at risk of infectious diseases. A filthy and unhygienic enclosure increases the chances of such infections.

Installing a powerful filter is mandatory to raise mata mata turtles.

PARASITE ATTACK

Parasitic attacks are common in mata mata turtles as they prey on live animals. A sick turtle will exhibit signs like vomiting, diarrhea, white worms in poop, blood in poop, etc.

Deworming the turtles at least once a year can prevent this condition.

OBESITY

Experts advise stocking their habitat with live foods so that they can grab a bite when hungry. But it increases the risk of obesity. Then, again, overfeeding of protein can cause pyramiding in the turtles.

You can take charge of feeding to eliminate any potential health risks.

METABOLIC BONE DISEASE

Lack of vitamin D and calcium leads to metabolic bone diseases in mata mata turtles. It mainly occurs due to insufficient UV rays in the enclosure.

Installing a high-quality UV light and fulfilling calcium requirements with meals and supplements cures MBD in turtles.