



### **Eastern Box Turtle / Ornate Box Turtle**

**Common Name:** Eastern Box Turtle

**Scientific Name:** *Terrapene carolina*

#### **General Info:**

The Eastern Box turtle's size can get up to eight and a half feet. It is a tame animal. Watch out for this animal having respiratory infections, abscesses, limb and head swelling, shell infections, and gastroenteritic problems. The males are usually more colorful than the females.

#### **Temperature/Humidity:**

Ideal daytime temperature is 70 degrees Fahrenheit to 88 degrees Fahrenheit with night temperatures at 55 degrees Fahrenheit to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Provide humidity with a water pan and frequent misting of the animal's enclosure.

**Lighting:** Full spectrum lighting or U.V. radiation is required for the box turtle. It is recommended that the turtles are exposed to unfiltered, natural sunlight.

**Feeding/Watering:** These box turtles are nutrient and vitamin fed crickets, mealworms, night crawlers, etc. They require fresh water daily for drinking, soaking, and defecation.

**Habitat/Housing:** A thirty to fifty-five gallon tank can home two to six box turtles. Use at least two inches of soil or sand mixture to cover the bottom. Landscape your tank by creating shelters with driftwood, hollow logs, or cork bark.

**Other notes:** As with all reptiles after handling, cleaning, changing bedding or washing feed dishes make sure you clean your hands and surrounding areas with a bleach water mixture or a antibacterial soap. Improper cleaning of sinks and bathtubs after reptiles



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have been in them or their housing, food dishes have been cleaned, can cause severe illness in children and adults.