



Spiny Softshell Turtle

Common Name: Softshell Turtle

Scientific Name: *Apalone spiniferus*

General Info: The Spiny Softshell Turtle is most commonly found in Central and eastern parts of U.S.A. Most are aggressive, but may settle down in captivity. They can be housed in groups if are well fed and closely monitored. The Softshell Turtle is long lived if properly set up and maintained correctly. Females can grow up to eighteen inches while males are much smaller and have a larger tail.

Temperature/Humidity: Since the Spiny Softshell Turtle is cold tolerant it may be best to keep its temperature between seventy and eighty-six degrees Fahrenheit. For heating purposes use a fully submersible aquarium heater to provide the proper heat range.

Lighting: Standard aquarium lighting is required.

Feeding/Watering: Softshell Turtles feed upon feeder goldfish, night crawlers, crickets, etc. Use chlorinated water and add a small amount of rock salt. This will keep potential fungal problem under control.

Habitat/Housing: These turtles require at least a thirty gallon tank with a deep layer of extra-fine sand used for hiding. Provide eight to ten inches in depth for water. You may want to add floating plants and a rounded cork bark float for hauling out purposes.

Other notes: All other Softshell Turtle species may be maintained under similar conditions.