

CHINEMYS REEVESII
Chinese three-keeled pond turtle

Reeves are much like box turtles and are not good swimmers. In deep water they will drown. Water should not be deeper than they are long.

FOOD: Hatchling turtles can be picky eaters. Do not panic if they will not eat when you first get yours. Try a variety of foods such as earthworms or night crawlers, meal worms, sow bugs, snails, slugs, crickets and pelleted fish food. Be sure the snails and slugs have not been near snail poison. Calcium and vitamins should be sprinkled lightly on the food once or twice a week. As adults they will also eat bananas, tomatoes, cantaloupe, berries, peaches, etc.

HOUSING: Hatchlings can be kept inside for the first year. After that they can be kept outside. We use a busboy pan or similar non-slick pan for our hatchlings. Place a 1 1/2 inch board under one end and put water in the bottom 1/3. This container is changed daily. Adult turtles should be kept outdoors in a safe enclosure. They are good climbers so you need a fence they are not able to climb over or dig under. It is a good idea to have a wire top to protect them from other animals and birds. They like to hide in leaves and under plants. They like to have filtered sun. Be sure to provide them with a soaking container and be sure to clean it often as they will go to the bathroom in the water. If you have to keep them inside be sure to provide them with a full spectrum light to augment the natural sunlight. This is vital for their health.

HIBERNATION: Do not hibernate hatchlings for the first 2 years. Keep them at 75 - 85 degrees F. Adults: usually in the fall as the days start to cool you will notice they will begin to eat less, bask less and appear sluggish. This is a good sign they are getting ready to hibernate. They like to bury themselves just under the ground or under a pile of leaves. They do require a somewhat moist area so an occasional rain will not harm them just be sure they do not get flooded.

ILLNESS: Be sure to isolate a new turtle for at least 3 months before introducing it to others you may already have. If you are worried that your turtle is ill you should take it to a reptile vet for a checkup. An unhealthy turtle should be kept in the house in a warm enclosure, 85 degrees is best. Be sure to feed a variety of food and provide a dish of water for it to soak in.

INCUBATION: Turtles will usually nest between April and July and can lay more than one clutch. Eggs can be left in the ground and allowed to hatch on their own. If this is the case then a wire over the enclosure is a must or birds will get the babies. You can also dig the eggs and place in an incubator kept around 85 degrees. The eggs need to be kept moist, (not wet). They will usually hatch in 60 to 90 days. As with all reptiles do not turn the eggs.

For more information contact:
Bob & Judy Thomas
805-481-5222
Thomas-turtles@juno.com