

# Family Pet & Aquarium

7 Days

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## Turtle Fact Sheet (Macquarie Short Neck)

### Introduction

If you are reading this, you have probably just purchased a Macquarie Short Necked Turtle and whilst you would have been well briefed by one of our trained staff on how to care for your new friend, this fact sheet repeats that and may answer some other questions you might have .

### The Basics

You need an aquarium heater, tank, a filter, a good 10.0 UVB light and a landing for the turtle to be able to get out of the water. We have found that when the turtles are little, they seem to do better with the water temperature set to 24°C.

### The Basics Plus a Bit More

Aquarium heaters have temperature gauges on them but they are not always accurate. This is not a fault; it is just a calibration issue. So we suggest you get yourself an accurate thermometer to monitor the temperature yourself. If you have your heater set to 24°C, check to see what the thermometer says after being set up for 24 hours. If they are the same then all good. If the thermometer says 22°C then turn up your heater to 26°C and check the temperature the next day. By all accounts, it should be at about 24°C which is what we want. When the turtle gets bigger, say 10cm diameter shell size, you can turn the heater down to 22°C.

When doing water changes, add warm water to the tank so as not to shock the turtle with straight cold water and ensure it's been treated with water ager, same as fish. (Check out our Goldfish and Tank Cycle fact sheets for more information)

### Feeding

The turtle pellets are the best food and work out cheaper than frozen food, but sometimes the turtles will not eat the pellets so **it is very important that you watch to see it is actually eating what you feed it.** Also, you can feed frozen turtle dinner which has some nutritional value, but not much compared to the pellets. A baby turtle can die fairly quickly when they don't eat as they do not have much body fat to sustain them.

You should feed the turtle twice a day for the first six months then you can feed it every second day. How often you feed your turtle after this depends on a number of factors so contact us for advice.

