



Aquatic Reptile Kit Setup and Care Guide

Congratulations on the purchase of your new Aquatic Reptile Kit! This guide will help you set up your new habitat to keep your new pet happy and healthy. Please read carefully prior to setting up your kit.

Choose Your Tetrafauna® Aquatic Reptile Kit Location Carefully

Place your reptile kit in a location close to an electrical outlet, to allow the use of lights and filters. The kit should not be placed near heating or air conditioning ducts, or in direct sunlight, as this can cause the temperature inside the habitat to fluctuate, and direct sunlight can cause algae growth. The kit should be placed on a flat, water-resistant surface, designed to support its total weight (filled with water and gravel, your kit could weigh almost 200 pounds!). We recommend a commercially manufactured aquarium stand for this purpose. Stands 13" wide or less should be anchored or tethered to a wall to provide stability. Reptile habitats should not be placed on top TV's, or other electrical devices, or inside entertainment centers.

Along one side of the aquarium, notches are located on the inside corners of the top frame. These notches may be broken away with pliers, to allow the use of electrical cords. When locating your aquarium, these notches should be positioned in the **BACK** of the aquarium.

Preparing Your Aquatic Reptile Kit and Equipment

Before adding anything to your habitat, it is important that you clean it thoroughly, using only plain tap water. Do not use soap or chemicals on your aquarium or any decorations that will go inside the reptile kit. Begin by rinsing and wiping out the aquarium. Next, rinse the Decorative ReptoFilter® unit, and place it in the rear corner of the aquarium. Rinse gravel thoroughly until the water runs clear. Add gravel to the reptile kit so that it covers the bottom of the aquarium to approximately one inch deep. Rinse the basking platform and any desired decorations and plants, again using only plain tap water. Place the basking platform and decorations into the reptile kit, and arrange as desired.

Adding Water to Your Aquatic Reptile Kit

To fill your reptile kit, add household tap water so that the water level falls between the "Minimum" and "Maximum"

fill lines marked on the back of the Decorative ReptoFilter® unit. The water level should be below the top of the basking platform. The height of the basking platform may be changed by adjusting the amount of gravel under the platform.

Turtles, adult frogs, newts and salamanders all require a platform above the water line to properly digest their food after eating, to use as a feeding location, or as a place to rest and warm themselves. The basking platform included in your kit will be perfect for your aquatic pets.

Before adding your new pets, be sure to add water conditioner to the water in the reptile kit, to remove the chlorine found in most municipal water supplies. Chlorine can be harmful to your pets. A water conditioner sample is included in your kit for setup, and may be found in your fish or reptile department of your local store. Water conditioner should always be used when adding or changing water in the reptile habitat.

To keep your pets comfortable, always allow water to warm to room temperature before adding your pets to their new home.

Filtration

To use your filter, simply follow the enclosed instructions inside the Decorative ReptoFilter® package. For best results, always ensure that the water level stays between the "Minimum" and "Maximum" fill lines marked on the back of the filter. Once the filter is running and the water is clear and odorless, you may add your new pets.

Heat and Light

Aquatic reptiles are cold-blooded, so it is important to keep the water a constant temperature, and to provide a basking area where your reptile can warm itself. The simplest way to keep your reptile warm, is to use the heat lamp and bulb included in your kit. A 60-Watt incandescent bulb is included, and the heat lamp may be used with bulbs up to 75-watts. The incandescent bulb should be installed in the shorter of the two dome lamps included. Once the bulb is installed, place the lamp on top of the screen on your kit, positioning it directly above the basking platform, and allowing it to run for approximately 12 hours per day.

The UVB light spectrum is important for the health of aquatic turtles. Your kit also includes a compact fluorescent UVB bulb and a second, taller dome lamp. This second dome lamp with UVB bulb should also be positioned on the screen top above the basking area, and run for 10-12 hours per day.

You may wish to purchase a timer to use with the lamps while you are away or on vacation, to keep your reptiles warm. If you are having trouble maintaining a constant temperature, you may consider purchasing a submersible aquarium heater to use in conjunction with your heat lamp.

Cleaning and Maintenance

To keep your aquatic reptiles happy and healthy, it's important to change 20% of the water in the kit every week with new conditioner-treated water. Skipping a water change one week and following it the next week with 40% water change is not recommended, because it forces your pets to live in deteriorating water for additional period of time, and then a sudden change in the water chemistry caused by a large water change can be stressful. A 100% water change should never be performed, as the drastic change in water chemistry may cause stress, or even death, to your pet.

Feeding

Aquatic Turtles

Most aquatic turtles are omnivorous, meaning they eat both plants and animals in the wild. The best option for feeding your turtle is a prepared aquatic turtle food that usually comes in pellets or sticks, such as Tetra[®] ReptoMin[®] Sticks. These foods contain animal and plant material, vitamins, and minerals that are important to long-term health.

Overfeeding leads to wasted and uneaten food, which can quickly lower water quality. Prepared turtle food may be fed once or twice a day, with no more being added at a time than can be consumed in five minutes. To do this, add a stick of food after each one that the turtle eats, removing any that go uneaten. Feed that amount as a general guideline each day. As a turtle grows, it will require more food with each feeding, so you will need to repeat the procedure above every two or three weeks to determine the correct amount of food for your growing turtle.

If you would like to feed your turtle live foods, such as small fish, worms or insects, limit them to three feedings each week, and remove any food that is uneaten so that water quality is not affected by decaying food.

Frogs, Newts, and Salamanders

Unlike turtles, frogs, newts, and salamanders are strictly carnivorous, meaning they eat only animal matter and no plants. Small worms, wingless flies, crickets, and other insects are the natural prey of these animals. Also, frozen and prepared foods are available that may be used as a portion of their diet.

Safety Tips

- **Always** grasp and carry an aquarium from underneath, supporting the bottom at all times.
- **Never** try to move a full or partially full aquarium.
- **Never** lift your aquarium by grasping its upper frame.
- **Never** lift an aquarium with wet hands.
- **Always** remember to wash your hands before and after handling your pets.

- **Never** place the dome lamps inside the reptile habitat, or against the glass or plastic frame of the aquarium.
- **Always** position lamps on top of the metal screen.

Screen Top Instructions

The included screen top has been engineered for easy access to your habitat.

To insert Screen Top:

1. Make sure the front handle and side latches are not engaged. Rotate the main handle clockwise until it stops. Rotate the two side latches so the triangles on the knobs are pointing toward the middle of the Screen Top.
2. Grasp the handle on top of the screen with one hand and place the back onto the back edge of the habitat frame.
3. Slide the screen back until the lip that runs along the back edge catches on the back lip of the habitat frame, using the guide tabs along the side of the screen to aid in placement.
4. Tilt the screen down flat on the top of the habitat.
5. Gently rotate the front main handle counter-clockwise until the padlock loop on the handle meets the padlock loop on the screen. Your Screen Top is now secured to your reptile enclosure.
6. For extra security, engage the two side latches by turning in either direction until they stop.

To remove Screen Top:

1. If you have engaged the side latches, rotate both so the triangular extensions on the knobs are pointing toward the middle of the Screen Top.
2. Grasp the handle on top of the screen with one hand and gently rotate clockwise until the latch releases from the frame.
3. Tilt the screen upward and pull gently toward the front of the habitat to release.
4. Remove.



Register today for FREE TetraCare[®] support! Let us help you with your aquarium, so you can enjoy the fun.

- Totally free online and phone support.
- Free advice and tips to ensure aquarium success.
- Helpful e-Minders for aquarium set-up and maintenance.
- Money-saving offers and valuable coupons.

United Pet Group, Inc. (UPG)
7794 Five Mile Rd. Suite 190
Cincinnati, OH 45230

1-800-322-1266 • www.tetrafauna.com
®Registered Trademark and ™Trademark of
United Pet Group, Inc. or one of its affiliates
© 2014 UPG