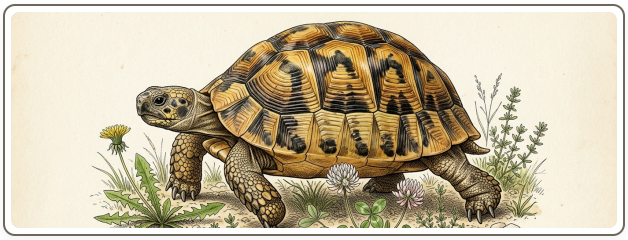
Hermann's Tortoise

Testudo hermanni

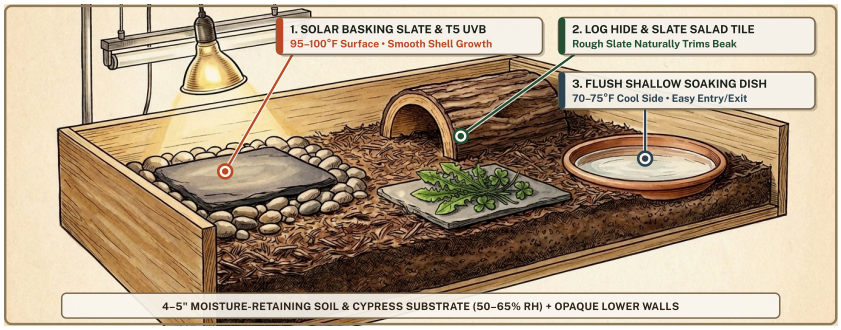
The Quick Version: Want a tortoise that won't bulldoze your drywall like a 100-pound Sulcata? Hermann's Tortoises stay a super manageable 6 to 8 inches full-grown, have bold black-and-gold shells, and march right up to greet the person bringing the dandelion greens!



LIFESPAN	ADULT SIZE	ACTIVE HOURS	ADULT SPACE	DIET
50–75+ Years!	6–8 Inches	Daytime (Diurnal)	40B / 50G Low-Boy+	100% Weeds & Greens

1. Wide Walking Space, Strong UVB & Damp Digging Dirt

FLOOR SPACE BEATS HEIGHT EVERY TIME • BLOCK CLEAR GLASS AT EYE LEVEL!



Basking Slate Surface — 95°–100°F
Flat rock right under your flood lamp + UVB bar

Warm Side Air Temp — 80°–86°F
Sunny Mediterranean meadow warmth

Damp Lower Soil — 50–65% RH
Moist dirt underneath (50–65% RH) keeps shells smooth!

Cool Grazing Side — 70°–75°F
With a shallow soaking dish sunk flush into the dirt

Nighttime Temp Drop — 62°–70°F
Lights off at night; cool drop down to 62–70°F is great!

2. Two Ways That Work — Pick What Fits Your Home

SHORT & SWEET: BOTH OPTIONS WORK GREAT

Enclosure: Wide Glass Tank Setup vs. Summer Garden Pen

Tortoises are marathon walkers — and if they can see through clear glass, they'll bonk their nose trying to walk through it all day:

OPTION A: 40-GAL BREEDER, 50-GAL LOW-BOY, OR 36"×18" TERRARIUM (OUR TOP PICK)
Wide floor space gives them room to roam! Just tape a 5-inch strip of dark paper around the outside bottom rim so they don't pace the glass.

OPTION B: PREDATOR-PROOF OUTDOOR SUMMER PEN
On sunny Oregon/Washington summer days (70–85°F), a wire-topped garden pen with pesticide-free dandelions and shade bushes is paradise!

Bedding: Why We Ditch Bone-Dry Pellets!

Old books used to recommend dry rabbit pellets or sand — we now know bone-dry bedding is what causes bumpy 'pyramided' shells!

OPTION A: REPTISOIL + FOREST FLOOR CYPRESS / REPTIBARK (4–5" DEEP)
Holds gentle moisture underneath for burrowing while giving firm traction; you can even seed **Powder Orange/Blue** or **Giant Canyon Isopods + Springtails** under the water dish!

OPTION B: REPTISOIL + ECO EARTH + FLAT SLATE DINNER TILE
Always serve greens on a rough flat piece of slate rock — scraping salad off stone files their beak down naturally so it never overgrows!

Sunbeam Lighting: Linear T5 HO UVB + Basking Flood Bulb

Tortoises need real, high-output UVB to build smooth, rock-hard shells:

OPTION A: LINEAR T5 HO 12% DESERT UVB BAR + BASKING FLOOD BULB (BEST!)
Covers a wide basking zone so their whole shell warms up under strong UV rays at once. Write the install date on the bulb base with a Sharpie and replace UVB every 6–12 months!

OPTION B: OVERLAPPING HEAT & UV OVER A FLAT BASKING STONE
Hang your basking dome and T5 UVB hood side-by-side 10–12" above a flat rock on the warm end of the tank.

Flip Over for Page 2: Feeding Schedule, Team Tips & Grab-and-Go Checklist →

3. The 100% Weed & Leafy Green Menu

BIG NO-NO FOR MEDITERRANEAN TORTOISES: ZERO FRUIT, ZERO DOG FOOD, ZERO ICEBERG!

85% Daily Greens
Every Morning

Shell-Sized Pile of Dark Weeds & Greens: Dandelion greens & yellow flowers, collard, mustard, turnip greens, endive, escarole, plantain weed, clover, and hibiscus leaves.

15% Fiber Boost
2–3× Per Week

Soaked Grassland Tortoise Pellets & Flower Toppers: Soak high-fiber grassland pellets in warm water and mash them into their greens.

0% Sugar / Fruit
Strictly Avoid!

Why No Fruit for Hermann's? Unlike tropical Red-Foots, Mediterranean tortoises can't digest sugary strawberries or bananas — fruit ferments in their gut and causes parasite blooms!

Greens, Pellets & Toppers We Love:

- **Daily Staple Weeds/Greens** — Dandelion, collard, mustard, turnip, endive
- **Grassland Tortoise Chow** — Soaked timothy-hay & herbal fiber pellets
- **Dried Flower Toppers** — Hibiscus, dandelion & rose petals (they go crazy for red/yellow!)
- **Cuttlebone in the Pen** — Leave a whole white cuttlebone in the tank 24/7

Calcium Sprinkle & Beak Trim: Lightly dust their morning greens 3× a week with **Pure Calcium (no D3)** and once a week with a herbivore multivitamin. Feeding on a flat rough rock trims their beak for you!

4. Tips, Tricks & Big No-Nos from Our Reptile Team

REAL-WORLD HABITS THAT KEEP THEM THRIVING

Warm Tub Soaks 2–3×/Week

Soak your tortoise in chin-deep warm water (85–88°F) in a dishpan for 15 minutes 2–3× a week. Don't panic when they pass toothpastey white 'urates' in the bath — that's normal tortoise pee!

Block Eye-Level Glass

If your tortoise is pacing one wall non-stop, tape a 5" strip of construction paper or vinyl around the bottom outside rim of the glass so they know where the wall stops.

Flip-Over Check

Tortoises love climbing everything! Sink their water dish flush with the dirt and keep steep log hides away from the direct center under the heat bulb so they can never flip upside-down under a hot lamp.

One Tortoise Per Table

Tortoises look peaceful, but two tortoises in one box will ram and bite each other's legs over territory. They are way happier living solo!

5. Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

ASK US ON THE FLOOR — WE'LL HELP YOU MATCH EVERYTHING!

WIDE TANK & DIGGING DIRT

- [ ] 40-Gal Breeder, 50-Gal Low-Boy Tank, or 36"×18" Glass Terrarium
- [ ] Reptisoil + Forest Floor Cypress / ReptiBark (4–5" deep!)
- [ ] Large Habba Hut Half-Log Hide & Rough Flat Slate Dinner Stone
- [ ] Wide Shallow Ramp Water Dish (easy to walk in & out)

SUNBEAM HEAT & STRONG UVB

- [ ] 10.0 / 12% Desert T5 HO Linear UVB Fixture & Bulb
- [ ] 75W–100W Basking Flood Bulb + Deep Ceramic Dome
- [ ] Digital Thermometer/Hygrometer & Automatic Light Timer

WEEDS, PELLETS & CALCIUM

- [ ] High-Fiber Grassland Tortoise Pellets & Herbal Gel Diet
- [ ] Dried Flower Salad Topper & Whole Cuttlebone
- [ ] Pure Reptile Calcium & Herbivore Multivitamin Dust

A Quick Note from Our Team — Keep Learning & Ask Us Anytime!

The quick version: there's more than one right way to set up a great enclosure! As long as your temperatures, humidity, and diet are dialed in, your pet doesn't care whether its cave is fancy resin or a terra-cotta pot. Bringing home this critter is a **50+ year generational commitment** — use these two pages as your home-base cheat sheet, watch what your pet tells you with their daily behavior, find a good local exotic vet, and call or stop by the shop anytime you have questions!

MY TORTOISE'S INFO

Name / Morph: _____

Current Diet: _____

Date Adopted: _____