**Red Eared Slider Turtle**

**Native to:** Southern United States and Northern Mexico

**Predators:**  Racoons, Minks, Stoats, Alligators

**Food:**  Insects, Fish, Frogs, Aquatic Plants, Algae

**Facts:**.

* On Average they grow up to 8 to 10 inches in diameter but can reach max lengths of 16 inches.
* They get their name from the bright read marks on the side of their head.
* They are completely unable to regulate their body temperatures and rely on the heat of their environment to heat themselves up during the day usually they due this by basking.
* Males have longer nails and slightly more concave shells in which aids in matting with the female.
* In their northern part of their range during winter when water drops below 50 degrees the go into a state of brumation until temperatures increase in spring.
* They are the most common pet turtle kept around the world.
* For that reason they are also one the worst invasive species on the planet. They have been introduced to Australia, Europe, South Africa, The Caribbean Islands, Guam, and South East Asia.

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Camouflage
* Hard Shells

**Reproduction:**

Females lay a clutch of eggs sometimes up to 30 eggs between March to June

**Lifespan:** Can live for 20 to 30 years

**Handling Tips**

Our Red Eared Sliders are very easy to handle make sure you do not drop them it can damage their shells and do not let the kids to their fingers directly in front of their head they can bite.