



# LITTLE RES Q'S EASY GUIDE TO TURTLE ADOPTION

## INDOOR SETUPS

### 1 - Habitat

In nature, RES are found in ponds, streams, rivers and lakes. They require fresh water and prefer calm waters with dense vegetation for food. Your turtle will need a freshwater aquarium with a powerful filter and a dry area for basking.

- 40 gallons/150 litres for boys minimum.
- 75 gallons/285 litres for girls minimum.
- Options include glass aquariums, preformed ponds, and stock tanks
- The larger the tank you get, the happier your turtle will be

### 2 - Filtration

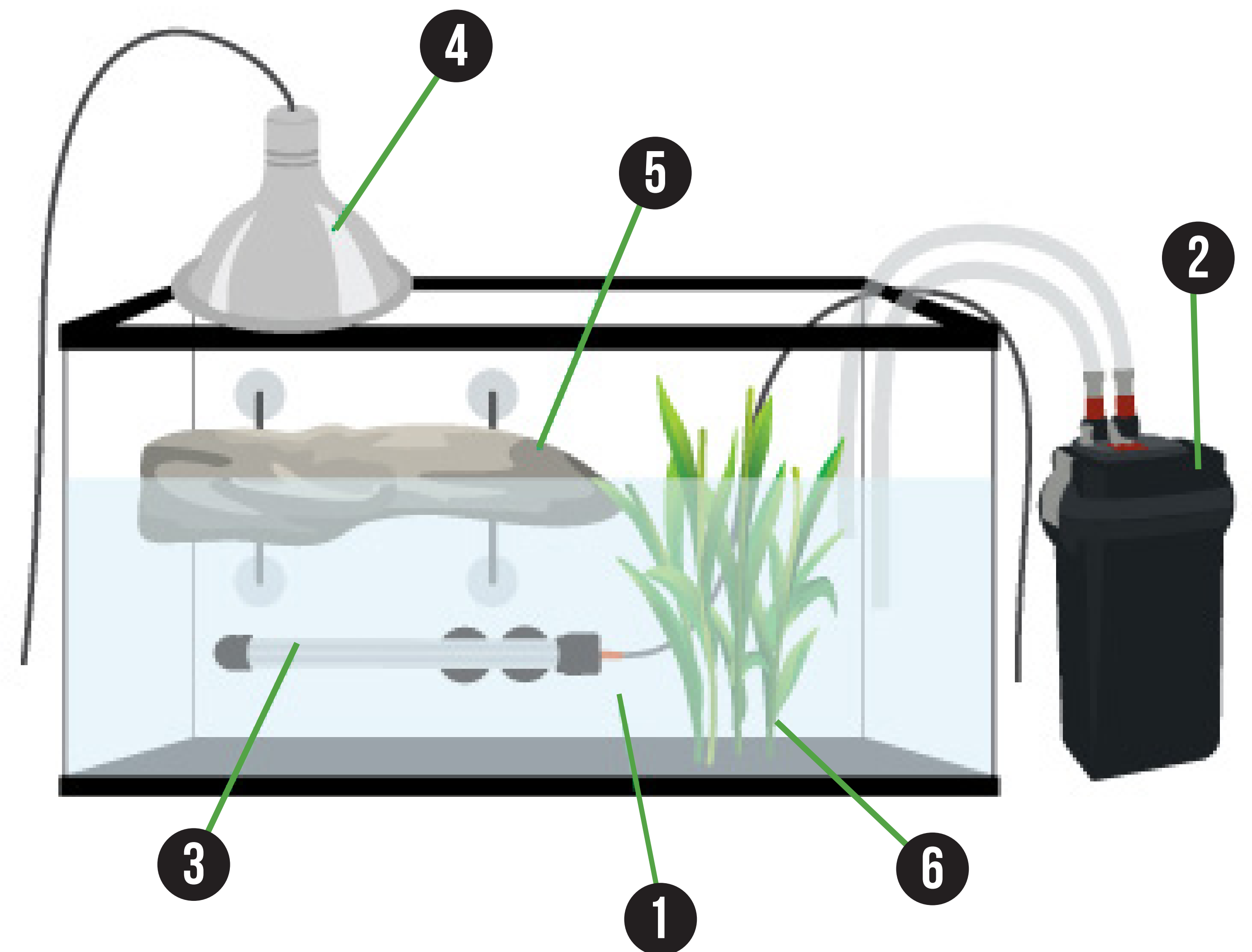
- Turtles do their eating and defecation in the water so an especially good filter is needed
- Whatever size tank you get, purchase a filter rated for twice that size for optimum performance
- We highly recommend external canister filters

### 3 - Heating

- Daytime Terrarium Air Temperature: 75-80°F.
- Basking Spot: 85-90° F Zoo Med's Turtle Tuff™ Splash-proof Halogen Lamp is the safest and best choice for providing basking heat to your turtles.
- Water Temperature: 78-80°F
- A quality aquarium heater will be needed to maintain water temperatures between 78-80°F

### 4 - Lighting

- UVB Lighting is essential for aquatic turtles to process calcium in captivity. Lighting should be provided for 8-10 hours per day
- Provide either a compact fluorescent or tube UV5.0 light



- Without UVB lighting turtles will develop serious health problems such as Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD)
- Depending on the manufacturer, UV bulbs should be replaced every 6-12 months. Consult the packaging for details.

### 5 - Basking

- Basking is vital to a turtle's health
- Zoo Med's large floating turtle dock is recommended for small to medium sized turtles
- Larger docks can be created with logs, bricks and rocks
- Arrange your basking area so it is partially submerged so your turtle can easily get out of the water onto the basking area

### 6 - Décor

- Aquatic turtles need places to hide and feel secure
- Fake water plants will make for a more natural looking setup but keep in mind turtles will continuously redecorate their habitat
- We do not recommend using substrates such as sand or gravel for aquatic turtles. These substrates can be accidentally ingested and may cause impaction

## FEEDING

- Turtles, especially younger ones, prefer protein. However, too much protein can lead to various health issues. Your turtle's diet should be comprised of 50% veggies, 25% pellets and 25% live foods.
- Most aquatic turtle foods have been formulated to offer balanced nutrition throughout the changing life stages of your turtle.
- Providing a Cuttlebone will help maintain proper calcium levels and help maintain the turtle's beak.

## OUTDOOR PONDS

Here's what we're looking for in an adoption pond:

1. The pond must be large and deep enough to not freeze completely solid, unless you bring the turtles in during the winter months
2. The pond must not be connected to streams or creeks or drainage basins
3. The pond must not be a natural "wetland" pond with native species of turtles already populating it
4. It must be escape proof and completely enclosed with fencing such as plastic edging panels at least 12 inches tall or more

### DO NOT RELEASE YOUR TURTLE INTO A WETLAND POND

They compete for habitat and food resources with our native turtle species and can introduce foreign parasites and bacteria into the local population.