

Table 1. Recommended indoor temperature or preferred optimum temperature zone (POTZ) of selected reptile species.

Common name	Scientific name	POTZ °F (°C)	Basking spot °F (°C)	Nighttime low² °F (°C)
African spurred tortoise (see Sulcata below)				
Anole	Genus <i>Anolis</i>	75-80 (24-27)	85-90 (29-32)	65-75 (18-24)
Ball python	<i>Python regius</i>	80-85 (27-29)	90 (32)	70-75 (21-24)
Bearded dragon	<i>Pogona vitticeps</i>	80-88 (27-31)	92-95 (33-35)	60-70 (16-21)
Blue-tongue skink	<i>Tiliqua</i> spp., <i>Cyclodomorphus</i> spp	75-88 (24-31)	90-95 (32-35)	Low to mid 70s (21-24)
Boa constrictor	<i>Boa constrictor</i>	80-90 (27-32)	90 (32)	70-75 (21-24)
Box turtle, Eastern	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	70-80 (21-27)	85-90 (29-32)	70-75 (21-24)
Corn snake	<i>Elaphe guttata</i>	75-85 (24-29)	90 (32)	65-72 (18-22)
Desert tortoise	<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	80-85 (27-29)	95 (35)	65-70 (18-21)
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	75-85 (24-29)	88-94 (31-34)	70s (21-26)
Green iguana	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	80-88 (27-31)	92-95 (33-35)	70-75 (21-24)
Hermann's Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>	78-85 (26-29)	90 (32)	70-75 (21-24)
Jackson's chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo jacksonii</i>	70-80 (21-27)	82-85 (28-29)	Low to mid 70s (21-24)
Kingsnake	Genus <i>Lampropeltis</i>	76-86 (24-30)	88-93 (31-32)	Low 70s (21-23)
Leopard gecko	<i>Eublepharis macularius</i>	70-80 (21-27)	90 (32)	Low 70s (21-23)
Leopard tortoise	<i>Geochelone pardalis</i>	72-86 (22-30)	90 (32)	70 (21)
Milksnake	Genus <i>Lampropeltis</i>	76-86 (24-30)	88-93 (31-32)	Low 70s (21-23)
Painted turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	72-82 (22-28) ¹	85-90 (29-32)	High 60s to low 70s (20-23)
Panther chameleon	<i>Furcifer pardalis</i>	75-90 (24-32)	95 (35)	65-70 (18-21)
Prehensile-tailed skink	<i>Corucia zebrata</i>	75-86 (24-30)	86-92 (30-33)	Low to mid 70s (21-24)
Red-eared slider	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>	75-82 (24-28) ¹	90-95 (32-35)	70-75 (21-24)
Red-eyed tree frog	<i>Agalychnis callidryas</i>	73-75 (23-24)	80 (27)	68 (20)
Red-footed tortoise	<i>Geochelone carbonaria</i>	78-85	90 (32)	High 60s to low

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		(26-29)		70s (20-23)
Rosy boa	<i>Lichanura trivigata</i>	73-83 (23-28)	78-85 (26-29)	70-75 (21-24)
Russian tortoise	<i>Testudo (Agrionemys) horsfieldii</i>	78-85 (26-29)	90-95 (32-35)	60-75 (16-24)
Savannah monitor	<i>Varanus exanthematicus</i>	84-92 (29-33)	94-100 (34-38)	75 (24)
Sulcata tortoise	<i>Geochelone sulcata</i>	70-90 (21-32)	95 (35)	70s (21-26 C)
Uromastyx	Genus <i>Uromastyx</i>	88-104 (31-40)	110-120 (43-49)	60-70 (16-21)
Veiled chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo calypttratus</i>	70-85 (21-29)	90-95 (32-35) ³	60-65 (16-18)
Water dragon, Chinese or Thai	<i>Physignathus cocincinus</i>	84-90 (29-32)	92-97 (33-36)	75-78 (24-26)

- 1 Recommended water temperature
- 2 Ideally a 10-15°F (2-5 C) drop in cage temperature should be scheduled at night to mimic natural conditions and minimize physiologic stress to the patient.
Use a ceramic heater and/or under tank heating.
- 3 A basking temperature of 80°F (27°C) is sufficient for chameleons 3 months old and younger.