

How to look after your tapir



Congratulations! A tapir has chosen YOU to be its very best friend. You must be the best and loveliest sort of person; tapirs are very discerning animals. But what next? How can you make your tapir feel at home? They are not quite like hamsters, cats or dogs and *definitely* not like pigs.



Food: Tapirs are vegetarians. If they have travelled a great distance to find you they may be very hungry indeed: salad on its own will not be enough to satisfy. For Bambang, pudding is important. A regular helping of banana pancakes will help keep his tummy in tip-top roundness. Be sure to find out your tapir's favourite food – yum!



Good luck! You won't need it. You've already had the good luck by having a tapir come to stay. And the best friendship and adventures of your life are on their way...

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Reassurance: At first, your tapir may be nervous and inclined to hide or run away. Don't forget they will have had scary encounters with tigers in the past. Provide a dark cupboard with soft comforters and snack items for retreat. Over time, and given plenty of kindness and hugs, your tapir will gain confidence.

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Entertainment: Once your tapir has settled in they will be keen to explore the world with you by their side. Be prepared; *everything* will be VERY exciting for them. Their natural curiosity can occasionally cause trouble. In the event of muddle, keep a calm head. A toffee or a piece of flapjack may help while you think it through.

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Exercise: A daily swim or a run in a park are ideal.

A tapir's natural musicality and emotional intelligence may also lend itself to a regular dance class. Pick their teacher carefully.

Be sure to assess floor strength before practice.

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Love: The most important thing to remember of all. Love your tapir and they will be happy. Be loved by your tapir and you will be happy. Luckily, this bit is easy-peasy.

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