



TURTLE & TORTOISE ADOPTION FORM

I understand that adoption through the San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society is to members only.

I also understand that by signing this application, I give permission for any member or members of the Adoption Committee to visit my home to determine its suitability to maintain the turtle or tortoise.

ANY ANIMAL OBTAINED THROUGH THIS ADOPTION PROGRAM MAY NOT BE SOLD, BARTERED, GIVEN AWAY, OR RETURNED TO THE WILD. IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY, IT MUST BE RETURNED TO THIS SOCIETY FOR ANOTHER PLACEMENT, OR A MEMBER OF THE ADOPTION COMMITTEE MUST APPROVE OF ANY OTHER POTENTIAL PLACEMENT YOU FIND.

> > > NOTE: IT IS ILLEGAL TO RETURN A TORTOISE TO THE WILD! < < <

Before completing the information below, please read the care sheet for the type of animal you are seeking to adopt. You can view and download care sheets at www.sdturtle.com.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Are you under the age of 18? _____

Do you live in a house? _____ Apartment? _____ Other? _____

Do you have a swimming pool or fish pond? _____ If so, can it be fenced off? _____

Do you own a dog? _____ Can it be separated from the turtle or tortoise? _____

Have you ever had turtle or tortoise? _____ Do you presently have any now? _____

If yes, what species? _____ How many? Male _____ Female _____

What species would you like to adopt? _____ Male _____ Female _____

Would you be interested in adopting: (1) A handicapped turtle or tortoise? _____
(2) One that has been ill or injured but has recovered? _____
(3) One that needs continuing medical care? _____

Would you be interested in fostering one or more animals? _____
(The society will provide additional information to you on the foster care program).

*** I agree to the terms of this document and understand that I will be responsible for the care and future veterinarian cost of any animal that we adopt.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ *Submission instructions on back.*

Adoption Committee Action: Date Received: _____ Premises Checked: _____

What species of animal _____ M _____ F _____ Vet ID# _____

No. of animals adopted _____ Name of Care Consultant: _____

RECOMMENDED YARD FOR CALIFORNIA DESERT AND TEXAS TORTOISES

Be sure to read complete care sheets for Gopherus Tortoises

- ENCLOSURE:** Escape-proof (safe from digging and climbing).
Concrete or brick under the fence to prevent digging.
Solid fence (chain link is not acceptable unless 18 to 24 inches of board is covering the fence bottom).
Barrier to prevent escape through gate accidentally left open.
Grassy area of Bermuda, Fescue, or other suitable grass.
Non-poisonous plants, to provide shade. (preferably native, drought-tolerant plants)
Sunny and shady areas available at all times.
- SHELTER:** Dry house (see care sheets) or you may bring your tortoise inside your house at night.
Shade from shrubs and bushes - natives preferred.
Cool, dry place indoors for winter hibernation.
- DIET:** A diet as close as possible to a natural diet is encouraged.
Recommended in captivity: 95% grazing grass, weeds, flowers; 5% purchased greens avoid fruit. (See care sheets at www.sdturtle.org.)
Fresh water must be available at all times.
- SAFETY:** Protect from dogs, coyotes, raccoons, foxes.
Eliminate access to swimming pool, pond or spa.
Remove poisonous plants from area. (Read "Plants That Poison" on www.sdturtle.org)
Never use insecticides or fertilizers in tortoise area.
Eliminate access to hazards such as stairs, storage areas, and garages.
When outside, hatchlings must have a wire cover over the enclosure.
- HEALTH:** Quarantine your new tortoise for at least a week, unless this is your only tortoise.
Desert Tortoises and Texas Tortoises must not be kept with any other species.
Male Desert Tortoises, Texas males, and many other species must have separate enclosures - they will fight and can cause severe injury or death.
Veterinary care after a reasonable period is your responsibility.
- REGISTRATION:** It is recommended that you register your Desert Tortoises with the California Department of Fish and Game. Forms are available through this Society. See www.sdturtle.org
- COMMITMENT:** Desert Tortoises routinely outlive their care givers. Arrangements must be made for their continuing care. If you are no longer able to care for your tortoise(s), or if you move from California, please contact the Society.

NOTE: Again, these are minimal guidelines only!

(Please check with our care consultants regarding the variety of different tortoise species that may be available through the Society. The different species may include the California Desert, Russian, African Sulcata, Box Turtles, Water Turtles, and others.)

Please send completed form along with your membership application to:

**San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society
P.O. Box 712514
Santee, CA 92072-2514**

Or you can E-mail application to: adoptions@sdturtle.org You can also email photos of your yard enclosure & house for the animal, for a quicker response.