

Important Information about Wild Turtles & Pet Turtles

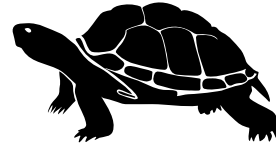
Turtles are ectotherms or “cold-blooded”. Temperature regulation, access to UVB and proper nutrition are critical for biological processes to function properly.

Despite what the pet stores will try to tell you, no turtle is a “beginner” pet. In fact, it is uncommon for pet turtles to NOT have deformities due to improper care. There is so much misinformation out there and turtles don't show the signs of improper care for a really long time. It could be 10 years before you see signs you've done irreparable damage to their health.

Turtles can live to be 100+ depending on the species. They are generally very long-lived, and often *should* be outliving you. Really think if you are ready for that type of lifelong commitment - it's a lot more than a dog or cat.

**Turtles are a Lifelong
Commitment & NOT
Beginner Pets**

Keep Wild Turtles Wild



It is critical to the survival of native turtle species that people do NOT take them from the wild.

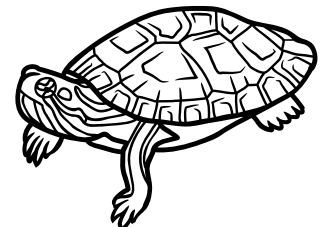
It is unfortunately not uncommon for turtles to be taken from the wild. This can do immense damage to local populations of wild turtles. When a turtle is taken from the wild, it is effectively dead to its population, meaning there's now 0 chance that individual can contribute to its population, or fill its critical role within that ecosystem. Some turtle species, such as the Blanding's turtle, can take 20+ years to reach reproductive maturity, and its so important they be left in the wild to contribute to the growth of their species.

Its also cruel to that individual to take them from their home and all they've ever known. Imagine if someone transported you across the world for you to live the rest of your life in a foreign place? Turtles deserve to live out their days in their natural environment, where they know their habitat intimately. **Be a turtle friend and observe from a distance and keep wild turtles wild.**

Adopt Don't Shop

Most pet stores advertise turtles as easy beginner pets, when they are far from it! To properly care for a captive reptile there's A LOT you need to know. Breeders and pet stores are incentivized to make the care seem far less significant than it is because they want to sell to you, but turtle care is no easy task. People continuously discard reptiles and there are very minimal rescues that accept reptiles, so its important to do your research first.

Adopting a turtle is a REAL long-term commitment - they are living beings with feelings and personalities who require a large space and natural habitat. Avoid contributing to this global problem by ALWAYS adopting from a rescue. Please don't buy; help a turtle that is in need. If you're interested in adopting a turtle companion, reach out to us if you'd like any advice or have questions about the care involved.

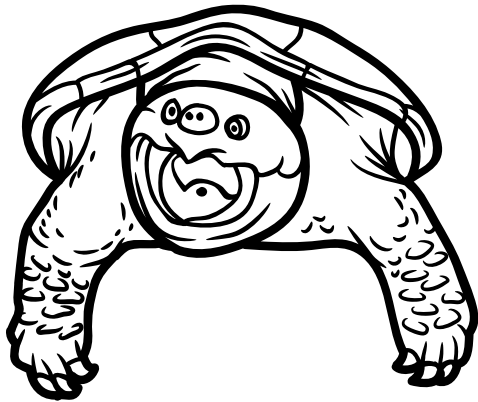


NEVER Release Pets

One of the major causes of disease spread amongst reptile populations has been the international pet and food trade. There are diseases which cause mass fatalities of fish, amphibian and reptiles. There are a variety of ways that a turtle could be infected in captivity, such as being housed with another turtle, being fed items from the pet store, etc.

Therefore, it is extremely important turtles in captivity are never released. This could lead to the local extinction of vulnerable species of turtles.

If you need to re-home a pet, do the responsible thing and surrender it to a reptile rescue. See the Rehoming section for specific contact information.



Rehoming

If you are looking to re-home a turtle, below are reptile rescues in the New England area:

Redfoot Reptile Rescue
(781) 820-0928
Accepts terrestrial and aquatic species
Based in Massachusetts

New England Herp Society
(617) 789-5800
Accepts terrestrial and aquatic species
Based in Massachusetts

HerpHaven
(207) 385-7467
Accepts terrestrial species
Based in Maine

If you have questions about rehoming a turtle, text or call us at (603) 417-4944. Texting is preferable for non-emergencies.

NHTurtleRescue.org

Who We Are

New Hampshire Turtle Rescue Inc. (NH Turtle Rescue or NHTR) is a 501c3 non-profit public charity. Operated by licensed wildlife rehabilitators in the state of New Hampshire, Dallas Huggins and Drew Stevens, NHTR is based in Nottingham but serves the entire state of New Hampshire.

NH Turtle Rescue's mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, release, and preserve native turtle species through individualized care, public education, outreach, and scientific research in support of imperiled populations of wild New Hampshire turtles.

We are always looking to expand our team to get turtles the help they need as quickly as possible. Clinic and transport roles are available, reach out if interested.



**NEW HAMPSHIRE
TURTLE RESCUE**