

ADOPTION POLICIES OF SAN DIEGO TURTLE AND TORTOISE SOCIETY

1. Adoptions through the San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society are for members only. All committee and Society members who foster animals shall follow all policies and procedures or they may be removed by a consensus of the committee and ratified by the San Diego Turtle & Tortoise Society Board.

2. Adoptive homes must be visually or physical inspected by a member of the SDTTS adoption committee.

a. Must have an outside enclosure large enough and secure enough for the desired turtle/tortoise. Solid borders should be built so it cannot see outside the enclosure.

b. The adoptive family must have the proper housing depending on the turtle/tortoise adopted.

c. Poisonous plants must be removed from all areas the turtle/tortoise has access to. (Refer to the poisonous plant list on SDTTS website)

d. Unsupervised dogs must be kept out of all areas the turtle/tortoise has access to.

e. Turtle/tortoise must not have access to any pool or pond area, except water turtles.

f. The adopted turtle/tortoise must have access to a minimum 6 hours of sunlight with available shade, and fresh water daily.

3. It is best practice for all turtle and tortoise species to be kept separate from other chelonian species and other animals, i.e. chickens, goats, rabbits. Water turtles can be housed together if they share the same care requirements.

4. The adoptive family should be given either a printed version of the care sheet of the animal being adopted or understand how to obtain one for themselves.

5. Per the California Fish and Wildlife (CFW) California desert tortoise owners must apply for a permit (at no cost). The application form can be found at sdturtle.org. Select "Resources" then Links. Complete the form and mail to the address listed.

a. CFW Code 5000 states: In California it is illegal to sell, purchase, harm, take, possess (**without a permit**), transport, or shoot a projectile at a tortoise.

b. Per CFW, turtles and tortoises must be 4" or larger to adopt.

6. ***NOTE* IT IS ILLEGAL TO RETURN A TURTLE OR TORTOISE TO THE WILD!**

Any animal obtained through our adoption program may not be sold, bartered or given away. If it becomes necessary, the turtle/tortoise 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.

Thank You,
San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society