



The Tortoise Sanctuary

International Tortoise Association
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Guidance Document

Rehoming :

This year we have managed to re-home many animals – including Iguana's, dogs, cats, parrots, cockatoos and hedgehogs. Our main aim and concern is to help any chelonian i.e. tortoise/terrapins and turtles, and obviously we don't re-home turtles as they are sea animals, we work closely with the R.S.P.C.A. to re-unite pet and owner if possible or find a new owner if that is not an option. New animal welfare laws in operation insist that whatever animal you have it deserves to be kept correctly, and if this involves costly equipment so be it. The tortoise for example no matter what age it is or how long you have had it in your garden needs alternative heat/protection and U.V when it is not available naturally. We all know those weeks of rain and cold when the tortoise doesn't eat and is very miserable. To discuss these alternative forms of heat/light/U.V please call us. Regarding rehoming as in finding new homes for tortoise unless the provision of alternative heat/light/U.V can be provided we do not re-home and indeed if the person donating the tortoise prefers the animal to stay at the sanctuary and enjoy the facilities and companionship of others (the same species) we abide by their wishes.

Quite a few of the telephone calls we receive are from people who seem to think that we are desperately looking for new homes for tortoise, and seem upset when they are told that they are not available to them.

Tortoise are not easy animals to look after, no longer are they thrown in the garden to fend for themselves, as members can testify, they need the correct conditions, diet and constant monitoring amongst other things. It would be irresponsible for us to donate a tortoise to anyone who has not had proven experience in tortoise conservation. So unlike other organisations we do not donate tortoise to the uninitiated, just because they want one or had one as a child or it sounds like a good idea to have one. It must be understood that these animals are becoming increasingly more rare in the wild and as a licensed animal we have a responsibility under the CITES regulations to propagate the species by captive breeding. Most of the re-homings we receive are usually very old or sick through years of mal husbandry, through no fault of their own as they were not au fait with the requirements of these animals at the time of acquisitions. Things have now changed over the last few years a better understanding has emerged, so these animals are given a quiet quality of life for their last days.