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Unwanted Pet Desert Tortoises

“My males are fighting!” “I’m moving out of state.” “I want to separate my breeding pair!” “The bank is foreclosing and I’m moving into an apartment!” “My mother died and her tortoise needs a home!” We receive calls like these from people desperately looking for a home for a beloved pet, or sometimes for a tortoise they found in the street.

Until last year, a service would pick up unwanted tortoises and take them to the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center (DTCC). That service ended last year. This year the DTCC is not accepting any new pet tortoises and **at this time** there is no place to take an unwanted tortoise. Note that it is illegal to release a pet tortoise into the wild. It could carry disease or overpopulate an already-fragile desert area.

What Do I Do with an Unwanted Tortoise?

Find someone to take the tortoise. Ask them to register it and prepare their yard using our guidelines. We’ll be glad to help.

If it’s a found tortoise, check our Facebook page to see if anyone has lost one in your area. They can keep it themselves or find someone to take it. [Register](#) it on our website to make it legally theirs, and contact us to help them design a habitat

