



Welcome to Summer!

Tortoise Group is committed to being and staying green by publishing only electronic versions of the newsletter.

*All newsletters, including past editions, can be found at
TortoiseGroup.Org*

*You can also register to receive email updates on our website or by emailing
help@tortoisegroup.org*

Thank you for helping us keep our planet healthy!

Kobbe Shaw, Executive Director

THANK YOU to the many volunteer contributors for this edition of Tortoise Group News.

Tortoise Group depends on the efforts of amazing volunteers to help improve the lives of pet tortoises and protect the wild population. There are many opportunities to share your talents with TG. To get started, complete an interest form at tortoisegroup.org/volunteer/ or email Amber at amberroche@tortoisegroup.org



Tortoise Group educates and advocates for the protection and well-being of the desert tortoise.

Tortoise Group is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization since 1982.

ADOPTION STORIES

Tortoise Group is honored to share your stories this month along with some fun tortoise tips. We hope you enjoy this edition of Tortoise Group News. To read more stories, visit our Facebook Page and our website at TortoiseGroup.Org

I've been living with and working at adopting out desert tortoises for 30 years now and they never cease to amaze me, especially some of the comical and interesting things that they do. Hummer, approximately 20 pounds of spoiled desert tortoise will beg at the refrigerator, and I do mean beg! He will sit in front of the refrigerator and when the door opens he will stand up on all four legs and stretch out his neck hoping to see what is coming out of there...with any luck a goody for him. You see, on occasion I will pick dandelions from a friend's yard and put them in baggies and put a damp paper towel in with them to keep them moist for snacks...I have even transported dandelions from my family's house in Alaska (where they grow'em big) to Nevada for my kids (tortoises). Thank goodness no problems with security!!! My tortoises have learned how to work sliding glass doors with no problems so during the season they can come and go as they please.

~Cheryl Darnell from Northern Nevada



FREE Desert Tortoise Microchipping & Health Clinic

Presented by Tortoise Group, US Fish & Wildlife and
Nevada Department of Wildlife



May 14, 2016

10am – 2 pm

Veterans' Memorial Leisure Center

101 Pavilion Center Drive, Room 6, Las Vegas 89144

Please bring your tortoise in a high sided box or tote.

Please avoid feeding or soaking your tortoise prior to this event.

As with any pet, do not leave a tortoise in an
unattended car. They can die from overheating.

For more info: info@TortoiseGroup.org

Free Registration – Free Health Check

Free Shell Tag – Free Care Information

Sterilization Information & Sign Up

*Remember to soften your
tortoise food with water until it
is a juicy mash. Do not feed
them dry pellets. Form it into a
wedge for easy biting!
Yuuuummmmy!!!*



Tortoise Food Satellite Sellers

Is your tortoise hungry? Please contact
sellers directly to pick up Tortoise
Food. TG Members receive a discount
and a percentage of each sale benefits
Tortoise Group. Thank you for caring
for your tortoise and supporting the
efforts of Tortoise Group.

Nellis & Owens.....Georgi (702)459-1274
Durango & Grand Teton.....Cathy (702)339-5012
Craig & Cimmaron.....Annie (702)306-5096
Decatur & Gowan.....Toni (702)277-6179
Rainbow & Charleston.....Jamie (702)232-6289
Charleston & Casino Center...Trilla (702)528-2237
2-15 & W Tropicana.....Athena (702)682-0307
2-15 & S Decatur.....Carolyn (702)378-6514
2-15 & Windmill.....Diana (801)510-3526
Russell & Pecos.....Sherri (702)339-9821
Lake Mead & Van Wagenen..Peggy (702)281-3048
Boulder City.....Carol (702)293-6494
Pahrump.....Sheri (775)727-5557
Sparks.....Kym (775)762-3418
S. Reno.....Tonya (775)813-0050
Gardnerville.....Tricia (775)450-2259

You can also shop at our online store
24/7 tortoisegroup.org

No computer? Call Susan (702)458-8382

Business Locations

(Member pricing not available – tax added to price)

Boca Park Animal Hospital

Charleston & Rampart.....(702)675-7000

Creature Comforts Animal Hospital

Ann Rd & US-95.....(702)658-7339

Lone Mountain Animal Hospital

Rainbow & US-95.....(702)645-3116

Aloha Animal Hospital

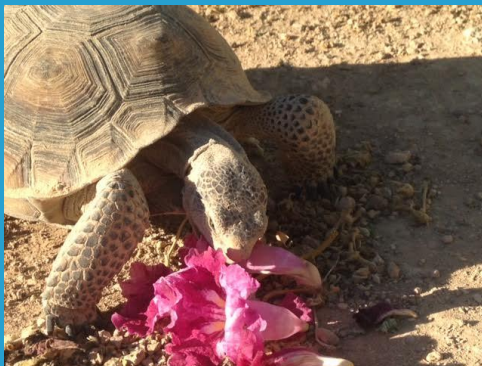
S Torrey Pines & Warm Springs.....(702)567-5222

Look Who's Ready to be ADOPTED!!!



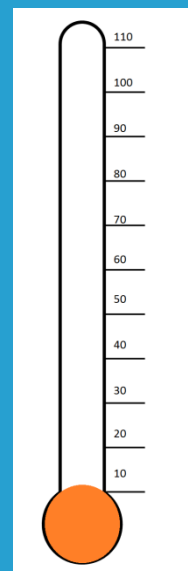
Georgia is a pretty girl. She is a little shy at first and warms up to people quickly.

Lucy (aka Lucy Lu) has a beautiful shell. She's very friendly and will follow you around!



Sheldon is a special needs tortoise. His legs are weak due to a previous injury. He's very friendly and a great guy!

These beautiful tortoises are waiting at the temporary shelter to find their custodian. If you or someone you know is ready to provide a habitat for one of these or the many tortoises available for adoption, please contact Sarah, our TG Adoption Specialist, at sarah@tortoisegroup.org. She'll be happy to conduct a yard consultation and make recommendations on how your yard can be tortoise friendly. Her goal is to make sure at least 100 tortoises find their forever homes this summer.



ADOPTION STORY OF THE MONTH GRACIE GIRL

(As told by Gracie)



Last month, my custodian in Pahrump contacted Tortoise Group because they could no longer care for me. A few days later, a really nice man, who said his name was Kobbe, came and got me and took me for a ride in his car. He said we were going to Las Vegas. It was really exciting as I've always wanted to see the bright lights of Las Vegas that people always talk about.

In Las Vegas, I got to meet Sarah and she took me to a Tortoise Group Meeting. I think that meeting was all about me because they let me walk around the entire room (which was huge) and everyone patted me and told me how beautiful I was.

Sarah put my tag on in case I get lost. She said that was just as important as microchipping. I tried to tell her that I wouldn't wander off, but Sarah insisted and she told me I was a good girl for holding still.

After the meeting, I got to go home with my new family. They made me a fabulous burrow and they let me follow them all over the yard and even sometimes in the house. They are so much fun and they love me a lot. They tell me all the time how happy I make them. I am so happy they adopted me. I couldn't have imagined a better home or family!

Thank you, Tortoise Group, for finding me the perfect family to call my own.



FEATURED TORTOISE - TOKYO ZEN



I'm a hypocrite! As an avid hiker and animal lover, I marveled at the times I would see a wild tortoise in the desert. Soon though, those sightings came less often, and then not at all. I cursed the new gravel pit and housing development that took 'my' tortoises away. Then, after twenty years in the same house, I bought a new-build home--beyond the suburbs--in the northern outskirts of town--where tortoises used to live! And so now I am one of THEM. The least I could do was offer a tort a new home. A few backyard accommodations later, Tokyo Zen joined our family. A more content soul I have never met. A more blessed hypocrite I have never been.

~ Tari Hawks

PS: If your spouse isn't as excited about adopting as you are, include his/her heritage in the tort's name--works every time (wink)!

Submit pictures of your tortoise to be featured on Tortoise Tuesdays to info@tortoisegroup.org or through any of our social media outlets.

Golden Tortoise Society Members can be assured their beloved desert tortoise pet will be cared for and adopted to a loving home following the custodian's death if no person is designated or able to provide their care. Contact info@tortoisegroup.org for a free consultation with a local estate planning attorney.

Thank you
Tortoise Group Partners



We asked what your tortoise's favorite snack was. Here's what you shared!



Biggie with geranium lipstick!



Doby Doc devouring daisies!



Flash reaching for hollyhocks!

Kami browsing for dandelions.



**Globe mallow is a favorite for
Polamalu & Elisha.**



**Rodeo munching on
grape leaves.**



Shelley loves her juicy tortoise mash.



Otis devours kale.

Visit us on Facebook and share your tortoise stories and photos!

Meet the Board – Laura D.

Each month we'll spotlight one of the members of our dedicated Board of Directors.

Lots of people ask Laura how she began her love affair with reptiles and tortoises. It started strangely enough at a Halloween Party in Atlanta, GA where she met a lovely 5 foot long green iguana. A year later she met another green iguana who needed to be adopted and Laura was ready to take him in. Just before adoption day, Laura's husband finally admitted that this clawed beauty scared him to death!! Laura's friend who knew and understood Laura's pet criteria (no fur or hair, no noise, vegetarian, ok to be left alone for a few days at a time, no emotion displays) smartly suggested a turtle. After some research on turtles, tortoises and other critters that matched the pet criteria list and met with her husband's approval (even if it was unenthusiastically), Rocko and Buttercup, two sweet Russian Tortoises, became part of their family.

Just over a year later, Laura's husband came home and asked if she'd like a baby Desert Tortoise. Understanding what type of space they needed, Laura emphatically said, "No!" Good thing husbands aren't the best listeners, because the next evening he brought home Spot – a tiny hatchling. Laura fell in love all over again and they created an amazing habitat and lovely yard for their family of 5!

Laura attended a Tortoise Group meeting to learn more about her baby, and was asked to attend a Board meeting and then asked to join the Board! That was more than 10 years ago and Laura is still very much in love with Spot, Rocko, Buttercup and her husband! Laura is thrilled to help out with leading our Board of Directors and gives our Executive Director the tools and guidance he needs to take this group to the next level with the support of all our members.



Urate Salts in Urine

What is that white stuff passed by my tortoise?

Chances are it's just urate salts that are occasionally part of the urine. It looks like curdled milk or bits of chalk. This is a good thing because if your tortoise was dehydrated, this might form a bladder stone. If you see the urates, just wash them into the grass or around your plants!

Spring / Early Summer Tortoise Tips

- Once your tortoise has warmed up, you may notice that it's feeding time! This time of year, their instincts tell them to eat and drink up because once the hot weather comes along, the plants in their natural habitats may not be as plentiful. Offer a variety of plants and flowers that are safe for tortoises and watch as they gobble it up!
- Fast-growing tortoises may have curls or flakes of skin on their neck. Do not pull off the flaking skin.
- Be careful not to turn a female tortoise upside down, as this could lead to her being eggbound. Take her to a vet if you have any concerns or questions.
- Tortoises grow all their lives. Keep a log of their weight and length of their shell a few times a year. Also keep track of their habits such as when they emerge or begin brumation. This way you'll know what to expect and can enjoy your pet without the worry!

TIPS FOR EVERY BACKYARD HABITAT

Even if you have a green thumb, you can grow cantaloupe seeds! Simply scoop out the middle of the cantaloupe, seeds, strings and all, and plop it into a shallow hole in the yard or a small container of soil. Water daily for 7 days and surprise...you'll have a yummy treat for your tortoise!



**Dopey and Tortuga
Best Friends Forever**

UPCOMING EVENTS 2016

TORTOISE GROUP GENERAL MEETINGS SOUTHERN NEVADA

June 18

July 16

August 20

September 17

Please visit TortoiseGroup.org for meeting locations and times.



Mojave Max stops by the TG booth at the Clark County Fair!



Northern NV Tortoise Group Meeting

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR TG MONTHLY HAPPY HOUR

May 18 – Steiner's Pub – 1750 N Buffalo

June 15

July 20

August 17

September 21

Visit TortoiseGroup.org/events/ for locations.

OTHER EVENTS

- June 22: Start of Sterilization Clinic
- Sept 10: Microchipping Clinic

Visit TortoiseGroup.org for times, locations and details on each of these wonderful events.

JOIN US AT THE EXPO

May 21-22: LV Pet Expo



Two volunteers at the Summerlin Pet Expo answer tortoise pet questions.

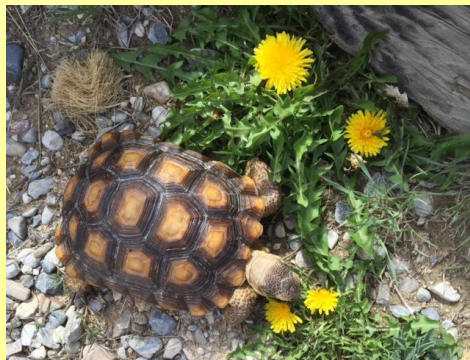
Are you struggling with weeds and dandelions in your lawn? Don't bring out the herbicide or the trash can; bring out your tortoise or transplant these "yellow weeds" into your tortoise habitat!

A 2010 study of Hermanns tortoises housed at the European Centre for Tortoise Conservation in Tuscany, tested color preferences in edibles. The tortoises were offered flowers of seven different colors and all forty showed their preference for light yellow!

Why is this color particularly attractive to tortoises? It is possibly related to the amount of carotenoids in yellow foods. These fat-soluble pigments enhance the immune system, improve antioxidant activity and are a source of vitamin A which assists many vital functions such as growth, vision, cell differentiation and spermatogenesis. Animals, such as tortoises, are incapable of synthesizing carotenoids, so they must rely on finding them in edibles.

Besides having well-developed senses of smell (which helps the tortoise detect food and scent profiles of other animals and their humans), tortoises also have good vision. Tortoises are able to see and clearly distinguish images and can perceive even subtle distinctions in color. These allow the tortoise to quickly find dandelions and other treats in their habitat (natural or your backyard) and then sniff to make sure it is a treat that will delight their tummies!

~ Norma Engberg



Annie snacks on a dandelion! Yum!

I WANT TO SUPPORT TORTOISE GROUP PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

**Thank you for all
your support!**

Please return completed form to
PO Box 530478
Henderson, NV 89053-0478

☐ \$25

☐ \$40

☐ \$70

☐ \$100

☐ \$250

☐ \$750

Life
Membership

Additional Donation \$ _____



Please make your check payable to Tortoise Group and return with this form.