

Tortoise Group News

Volume XXIX No.3 July 2015



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Membership Renewal Time Pg.7



Northern Nevada Needs You Pg.6

Microchipping Clinic a Huge Success

Invite desert tortoise custodians to a free health screening and microchipping event and what do you get? A huge turnout!



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Tortoises
Microchipped!

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World Turtle Day

On May 19, students at Joseph E. Thiriot Elementary School celebrated tortoises and turtles worldwide with Tortoise Group, Communities In Schools of Nevada and the Springs Preserve.

More on Pg.7



TORTOISE GROUP

A non-profit, 501 (c)(3) organization since 1982

PO Box 33866
Las Vegas, NV 89133-3866

www.tortoisegroup.org

hotline: 702.739.7113

ZooMed Grassland Tortoise Food



The same great tortoise food our darling pets have been enjoying as MegaDiet RF is now sold at meetings, online, and by our stellite sellers in a better container.

Buying food for your tortoise through Tortoise Group is a great way to provide for your tortoise while knowing you're helping desert tortoises and Tortoise Group.

WE NEED YOU!

Volunteering is the best way to be part of desert tortoise solutions while making a difference in your community.

We can't do it without you!

No experience required!

***Contact us today
info@tortoisegroup.org***

Tortoise Food Satellite Sellers

Please call sellers for appointment.
All are 702-area code unless otherwise noted.
Check [map online](#) for seller locations

Nellis & Owens	Georgi - 459-1274
Durango & Grand Teton	Cathy - 339-5012
Craig & Cimarron	Annie - 306-5096
Decatur & Gowan	Toni - 277-6179
Smoke Ranch & Michael Way	Julie - 245-4671
215 & Far Hills	Kathy & Pauline - 804-0472
Rainbow & Charleston	Jamie - 232-6289
Charleston & Casino Center	

Trilla at Ace Locksmiths - 528-2237

215 & W. Tropicana	Athena - 682-0307
215 & S. Decatur	Carolyn - 534-788-x824
	378-6514 cell

Silverado Ranch & Blue Diamond

Windmill & 215	Deric - (801)643-5553
Russell & Pecos	Sherri - 339-9821
SW of I-15 & Blue Diamond	Shirl - 338-5231
Russell & Nellis	Cindy - 530-9052
215 & US-95 at Van Wagenen	Peggy - 281-3048
Boulder City	Carol - 293-6494
Pahrump	Sheri - (775)727-5557
Sparks	Kym - (775)762-3418
S. Reno	Tonya - (775)853-8218
Carson City	Robin - (775)220-0523
Gardenerville	Tricia - (775)450-2259

You can also shop at our [online store](#)
No computer? Call Susan at (702)458-8382

Business Locations

(Member price not available - tax added to price)

<i>Boca Park Animal Hospital</i>	NEW 675-7000
<i>Charleston & Rampart</i>	
<i>Creature Comforts Animal Hospital</i>	658-7339
<i>Ann Rd and US-95</i>	
<i>Lone Mountain Animal Hospital</i>	645-3116
<i>Rainbow & US-95</i>	
<i>Aloha Animal Hospital</i>	567-5222
<i>S. Torrey Pines & Warm Springs</i>	
<i>Reptiles-N-Reefs</i>	565-7333
<i>Stephanie & Sunset</i>	
<i>Moon Sun Landscapes</i>	645-2032
<i>Russell & Boulder Highway</i>	

Summer Care Tips

By KATHY UTIGER
TORTOISE GROUP

Soaking

Making sure that your tortoise is well hydrated and that plenty of water goes through your tortoise's system is an important part of tortoise care. It may seem logical that your tortoise will drink if it needs to, but that's not always the case. If you find your tortoise lounging in its water dish on a regular basis, count yourself fortunate.

A wild tortoise will only void its bladder when it gets one of those rare drinks from a shower. Our pet tortoises receive so much water from many sources that they urinate frequently (we hope).

What are the sources of water?

The water dish is the main one. Tortoises also get water from the plants in their habitat and from the food we offer as a juicy mash. Surprisingly, most of the water from the food we offer is needed to process the fiber in this delicious food.

What happens if there's not enough water? Bladder stones, dehydration, and general poor health may be the result. Urate salts (that chunky white stuff) need to be flushed from the bladder frequently to avoid buildup into bladder stones.

How will I know when to soak?

Once a month for some, once a week for others. You choose. A well-hydrated tortoise should feel hefty, like a fine melon.

Estivation:

Using only necessary resources

When the ground has heated for an entire summer and the temperature soars above 110 degrees, a tortoise may decide to estivate. The tortoise stays in the burrow to conserve resources for a few days up to a week or two. The custodian is, of course, worried that something awful has happened when it's just the opposite.

It requires energy to heat up, cool off, heat up, cool off, when the tortoise doesn't even need more food or sun. So why not just stay put and wait out the hot spell? Tortoises are pros at seeking out the best temperature to conserve resources. In this case, it's in the burrow.

Now that you understand why your tortoise may stay in the burrow, you won't have to worry. Think like a tortoise!



This tortoise soaks in shallow water for 5-10 minutes several times a week!

Soak a tortoise occasionally for as long as it will stay in the water (5-30 minutes).

Tortoises may drink 20-30 minutes if they're thirsty. Don't panic. If they can lift their heads out of the water, they are just fine.

Microchipping Clinic a Huge Success

Continued from page 1

On May 30, people arrived at the Veterans' Memorial Leisure Center in Summerlin rolling tortoises in coolers and strollers, holding big boxes, laughing and "talking tortoise." What a time was had by 64 families and 87 tortoises!!!



The event was sponsored and staffed by Tortoise Group, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. All the tortoises received health screenings and external tags. Additionally 73 desert tortoises received free microchips and are now registered in the Tortoise Group system which includes their microchip number, external tag information, and custodian's name.



Due to great demand...a second clinic is scheduled for August 22, 2015 10 am – 2 pm at the Henderson Multigenerational Center, 250 S. Green Valley Parkway, just south of 215.

Clinic sponsored & staffed by FWS, NDOW & Tortoise Group



NEW RESOURCE! Lost/Found/Re-Home Tortoises

Please tell everyone with tortoises about the easy new tool available on TortoiseGroup.org. Look for **Lost Tortoises** and post for **Found Tortoises** right on our website. Print out a flyer that you can post in your neighborhood. It's quick, simple to use, and it gets results!



Need to **Re-Home a Tortoise**? A few clicks puts your tortoise's photo and your contact information on the website for potential custodians.

Adoptable Pet **ROCCO**



Rocco has the look and personality of a rugged man, and is estimated to be 30-40 years old. When he was abandoned last fall with Upper Respiratory Tract Disease, Tortoise Group came to Rocco's rescue, got him veterinary attention, and administered medication for weeks. He's recovered fully with no signs of sickness this year. He loves desert willow flowers, and would love to go home with his loving forever family.



For information on Rocco and other adoptable tortoises visit TortoiseGroup.org

Featured Tortoise **Miss Snidly Whiplash** *by Debbie Forbush*



I'd like to tell you the history of our old tortoise ...

Back in the late 1970's, my husband found a tortoise walking down the sidewalk. A door-to-door search brought no results, so he brought her home.

In 1992, we noticed our tortoise was in some sort of distress. She had dug a hole and was trying and trying to lay eggs with no success. A trip to the vet showed a large bladder stone and a gravel impaction in her stomach from eating fallen apricots. Pebbles and dirt stuck to the apricots she consumed. The apricots moved through her, but the pebbles did not.



Surgery was performed to remove the bladder stone, remove the gravel impaction, AND she was spayed. The stomach surgery required me to feed her liquid nutrition through a feeding tube in her neck until her stomach healed. At that time, the vet said, "This tortoise is at least 60 years old!" We calculate that she is 83 years young this year and still going strong!

News from the North

by Kym McDonough

Six more pet desert tortoises made the move north this June to live in Reno/Carson City joining Northern Nevada families who worked closely with Janina Little and Patty Cwiak to prepare safe desert tortoise habitats and plan for brumation northern-style. We're so happy for them! We'll be here to support them as their tortoise questions change with the seasons throughout the year. Congratulations to those tortoises and their custodians!



If you're considering adopting a pet desert tortoise and you live in the Reno/Carson/Gardnerville area, it's not too late to shape up a safe habitat and adopt a pet desert tortoise this year. Fill out an

adoption application by clicking "I want to Adopt" on TortoiseGroup.org and one of our adoption counselors will communicate with you soon. Your tortoise is waiting!

Patti Cwiak appeared on a live broadcast on News4 KRNV Reno. She shared pet desert tortoise care tips, promoted adoption, and invited the public to Tortoise Group's northern meetings. Of course, the tortoises she brought along stole the show with their adorable tortoise faces.

Dayton Valley Days are coming up in September and it's much more than just a Chili Cook-Off and Car Show! This year Tortoise Group will have a booth to share the great news about pet desert tortoise adoption. We'll need your help to make this event a success! If you'd like to help staff the booth, share tortoise care tips, and encourage legal adoption, we want you to contact us right away to volunteer for this special event.

We're always looking for volunteers and there are so many ways Northern Nevadans can participate. Do you have a favorite snack you'd like to share at a general meeting? Are you available to serve on one of our committees? Are you passionate about helping tortoises?

Contact Kym today at mcdx_4@att.net!
There's PLENTY to do! We need your help!



Please support Tortoise Group by continuing to purchase Grassland Tortoise Food at meetings, through satellite sellers, & TortoiseGroup.org!



Donate \$75 to Tortoise Group through Pet'ographique in July and get a complimentary portrait session.
Call 702.568.0500 to reserve your session.

Membership Policy Changes



Your membership will now be effective for an entire year from the date you join Tortoise Group. Each time you renew your membership, we'll extend your membership by another 365 days. Your membership support is critical to our organization in many ways. We hope, too, that you are proud to be a member of Tortoise Group. If you have suggestions for ways we can enhance your membership, please email info@tortoisegroup.org with the subject line Membership.

Did you know? Tortoise Group boasts 134 Life Members. These people, not even all tortoise custodians, have made a special commitment to support Tortoise Group and its goals. Do consider joining this elite group by renewing your membership at \$500 by December 31, 2015. This special rate goes up on January 1, 2016.

World Turtle Day!

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"Larry Byrd" was enticed from his burrow, even though it was a cool morning, to captivate the students with tortoise behavior—exploring, smelling their shoes, eating, and of course pooping! Students asked a zillion questions and all were enamored with tortoises. Even Frieda, Tortoise Group's freeze-dried tortoise, was a valuable source of information. A short reading from Tino the Turtle Goes to Kenya encouraged the students to continue reading, as each proudly left with a book and a plush toy donated by author and Tortoise Group Life Member, Carolyn Ahern.



I WANT TO SUPPORT TORTOISE GROUP PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP!

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TORTOISE GROUP

Please make your check payable to Tortoise Group and return with
this form. Your contribution may be tax deductible.

Tortoise Group
(general mailing) **PO Box 33866**
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(702)739-7113

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kathyutiger@tortoisegroup.org

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Janina Little

janinalittle@tortoisegroup.org

Tortoise Group Newsletter is
published four times a year in
March, May, July, and September.

Calendar of Events

Northern Nevada

Adoption and Care Workshops

August 29

Carson City, 10 am - noon

Cooperative Extension

2621 Northgate Lane, Suite 12

Carson City, NV 89706

August 29

Sparks, 2:30-4:40 pm

Sparks Library

1125 12th St

Sparks, NV 89431

Dayton Valley Days

September 19-20

Dayton, NV

Southern Nevada

General Meetings, 1-3 pm

July 18, August 15, September 19,
October 17

Las Vegas Library

833 Las Vegas Blvd N

Las Vegas, NV 89101

(across from Cashman Center)

Adoption & Care Workshops

Las Vegas

Saturday, August 1, 10-11:30 am

Historic 5th St. School

401 S 4th St

Las Vegas, NV 89101

Pahrump

Saturday, August 8, 11 am-1:30 pm

Pahrump Community Library

701 East Street

Pahrump, NV 89048

Microchipping Clinic

August 22, 10 am - 2 pm

Henderson

Multigenerational Center

250 S Green Valley Parkway

Henderson, NV 89012

(just south of 215)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Henderson, NV 89053-0478
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