

# SVTTC News

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*Silicon Valley Turtle & Tortoise Club*

*Chapter of the California Turtle and Tortoise Club since 2008*

[www.tortoise.org](http://www.tortoise.org) or [www.tortoise.org/siliconvalley](http://www.tortoise.org/siliconvalley)

## *February 2010*



Photo from Wikipedia - Picture of the HIGHLY endangered Radiated Tortoise.

### **Next Meeting:**

Next club meeting is **Monday, February 1st** at 7pm. Banquet room is open at 5pm

### **Topic of Interest:**

This month's presentation will be conducted by Kevin Norred and will be a Power Point presentation on the Radiated Tortoise. Kevin will have a couple juveniles on display.

### **Location:**

#### **Round Table Pizza**

14940 Camden Avenue (Corner of Union and Camden Ave)  
San Jose, CA 95124  
(408) 371-9550

# From the Editor

By Kevin Norred

Hi Everyone,

Hope everyone survived the New Years celebration and the month of January. I can't believe we are in 2010 now. 2009 just flew by.

At the January Meeting, Lesa Montoya and friends put together our first baked goods fundraiser at the meeting and I believe they did quite well. I have to say I personally have eaten the Banana Bread and Blue Berry muffins and they were delicious. All the funds generated from the donated baked goods go to the club. Thanks Lesa & friends for your dedication and hard work. I really look forward to all the events and fundraising they have in store for us this year. Lots of motivation.

Last months newsletter was quite lengthy and I hope everyone enjoyed it. I wanted to make up for the lack of info in the November and December newsletters. The holidays had the best of me. It is amazing that you have so much time off work but never have time to do anything. Plus all the honey-do's always take up most of the time.

Jessica and I attended this past Executive meeting in Pasadena on January 16th. She will highlight more on the meeting itself in her article. I would like to say thanks to everyone who was at the meeting. It was nice to walk into a room full of strangers and be welcomed with open arms. I do have to comment on that I personally know a lot about turtles and tortoises, but with the panel of experts that are part of this organization, I have a lot still to learn. I could have spent days picking everyone's brains. There truly isn't one-way to care for a turtle or tortoise, as there are so many variables in the life of our shelled friends.

Petco on Meridian Ave has contacted me and in the upcoming months, we will be doing some public outreach displays for adoptions and to represent the club. The First event will be February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be a great time to bring some of our animals for display. If you are interested, please let me know. I will have more dates shortly.

On a sad note, I had to experience something that I hope no one should ever have to go through. Over a period of two days, I lost 5 tortoises that meant a lot to me. Every night I walk my yard to make sure everyone is put away at night in their enclosures so they don't get cold and stay out of the wetness. Usually I don't have to many out, as they know the routine. One of my largest Sulcatus "Thor" was out and not a normal thing for him. He is usually the first in his hide. I carried all 100lbs of him into his house and tucked him away for the evening. I noticed that he was not fighting me all that much, but I blamed it on him just being cold. Usually I have to fight him to get him to move. Well, the next morning, he was out with the others so nothing was thought to be abnormal. The next night, he was out again and I thought to myself, not again. So I went to grab him and he was not alive. You want to talk about a broken heart. Thor has been with me for a while now and was part of the family. Well, the next day, I found 2 of my large Leopards, 1 Greek and a Red Foot Tortoise all dead. All Tortoises were solid as a rock in weight. Consulting with some Vets on the issue and the signs that were given, they told me that it sounded like some sort of toxin. I could not think of any, as my yard is plant safe. Well, with a heavy inspection of my yard, I noticed a couple parts of a Rat and found a dead squirrel and another dead rat in the yard, just under the power lines behind some plants where the tortoises go. ( cont on page 3 )

# From the Editor (Cont)

After talking to the neighbors, they have been finding them for some time as well. One neighbor said he saw one fall off the wire one day. Turns out someone within the area surrounding my house has been poisoning rats and when one or two fell into my yard, the tortoises took some bites of them and ingested the poison as well. It is not uncommon for Sulcata's, leopards to eat protein matter but Red Foots & Greeks will do anything to eat dead animals as that is one of their ways of living in the wild. I feed them pinkies and mice to keep up their protein levels. So after finding the source of the problems, I rounded up everyone and put him or her in tubs, soaked everyone every day to keep hydrated and fed everyone as much as possible. With Dogs and Cats who eat poison, Vitamin K works to help flush it out. With tortoises, once ingested, it is almost impossible to recoupe. Their organs shut down and they bleed internally. Fortunately, no one else has been lost.

After daily inspection of all tortoises each and every day for two weeks, we made it through the next couple of days without loosing any other tortoises. Thank god it was cooler weather as most of the tortoises stayed in their igloos and houses and did not see the dead animals to eat. Over the next 2 weeks, we saw a few more rats and squirrels. We talked to the neighbors to spread the word if possible. After doing more research, the rats can be getting the food / poison over a mile away and using the power lines as a source of freeway. I have tried talking to PG& E as well as they sometimes will poison the rats as they eat through the wires. The told me they use a poison that only kills the rats and squirrels and not anything else when ingested. I think that the stores that are a block down have been the source. They are very dirty and are a great food source. Talking to a couple people, there are two types of poisons used. One that if a cat or another animal eats the poisoned rat or mouse, will be unaffected. The industrial use one kills everything it comes in contact with.

So over the next couple months, we will be monitoring these guys to keep them safe and try to builds safety nets or enclosures that will keep any unforeign matter out of reach. Unfortunately it cost the lives of 5 precious animals, which also unfortunately were all very valuable in our hearts.

I encourage everyone who has outside tortoises; please make sure your neighbors are not baiting rats, mice or even snails. If so, make sure they have a poison that will not harm any other animals that may eat or nibble on them if they wind up in your yard. They do travel and will come in contact with your animals. People who bait snails with poison and have Box Turtles or other small tortoises that eat snails, this could lead to potential harm for your turtles as well. Many people who have Gardens always use some sort of poison. All snail bait is poisonous to all turtles and tortoises.

To wrap things up, I will be doing a presentation this month at the Club Meeting. About a year ago, I purchased some Radiated Tortoises and have truly fallen for these guys. They are full of expression, energy and are little piranhas when it comes to eating. With any species of tortoise, I like to learn about them, their natural settings and some history behind them. In my presentation this month, I will share what I have learned and a brief history of their native homeland in Madagascar & surrounding islands. Madagascar in the early part of man was home to some of the largest tortoises in the world. I will have a couple juveniles for show and I hope you can come and learn more about this rare and endangered species.

-Kevin

# 2010 Club Officers & Committees

## 2010 SVTTC Officers

President	Joseph Alvarado	<a href="mailto:info@reptilecompany.com">info@reptilecompany.com</a>
Vice President	Jessica Gopp	<a href="mailto:foxee_77@yahoo.com">foxee_77@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	Philip Edholm	<a href="mailto:philipaedholm@aol.com">philipaedholm@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	Gilbert & Dorothy Castro	<a href="mailto:1dotboop@att.net">1dotboop@att.net</a> or <a href="mailto:gilbert-castro@att.net">gilbert-castro@att.net</a>

## 2010 SVTTC Board Of Directors

Board of Director	Currently OPEN	
Board of Director	Paul Woodring	<a href="mailto:woodringpaul@yahoo.com">woodringpaul@yahoo.com</a>
Board of Director	Yvonne "Corky" Mariani	<a href="mailto:cmari2235@aol.com">cmari2235@aol.com</a>

## 2010 SVTTC Committee Chairman's & Assistants

Librarian	Martha Pugno	<a href="mailto:kayaklady56@yahoo.com">kayaklady56@yahoo.com</a>
Show/Event Chairman	Jennette Petrak	<a href="mailto:jen0139@gmail.com">jen0139@gmail.com</a>
Fundraiser Chairman	Lisa Montoya	<a href="mailto:lesa_doublemm@yahoo.com">lesa_doublemm@yahoo.com</a>
Adoption Chairman	Kevin Norred	<a href="mailto:tortoisehome@yahoo.com">tortoisehome@yahoo.com</a>
Newsletter	Kevin Norred	<a href="mailto:tortoisehome@yahoo.com">tortoisehome@yahoo.com</a>
Membership	Dorothy Castro	<a href="mailto:1dotboop@att.net">1dotboop@att.net</a>

## SVTTC Internet Connections

Turtle and Tortoise related Yahoo Groups:

SVTTC Chapter:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SVCTTC>

The SVTTC Website where you can find all forms including past newsletters:

[www.tortoise.org/siliconvalley](http://www.tortoise.org/siliconvalley)

# President's Report

By Joseph Alvarado

Happy New Year SVTTC,

Not a lot going on right now with the New Year. I look forward to 2010 being a fun pact year with lots of events and fundraising. Jennette, Lesa and Jessica have a ton of ideas, which will bring the club a lot of publicity, funds and pure joy. I can't wait to see the events they have in store for us this year.

I would like to thank Setiva Woodring for her dedication and time spent helping and supporting the SVTTC. Setiva has asked to step down from the Board as her time and dedication right now is dedicated to BAARS. She is currently the VP and Adoption Coordinator for them. Setiva over the past two years has held the position of Board of Director for the SVTTC. With this move, we now have a vacancy for her position and would like to have this filled at the February Meeting. If anyone is interested in filling this position, please let me know prior to the meeting or at the meeting. I would like to appoint in the new BOD at the February Meeting.

Thanks to everyone for their support.

Joseph Alvarado

# Vice-President's Report

By Jessica Gopp

Hi Everyone,

I would like to thank Matt Panos from Zoo Med for last month's presentation. Matt did an excellent job explaining the importance of UVB lighting and the effects it has on reptiles. Matt brought along several different types of lights and fixtures and explained the rolls each one has in indoor lighting. Thanks Matt.

Here are the 2010 Presentations:

February 1<sup>st</sup> – Kevin Norred SVTTC Adoptions  
Power Point presentation on Radiated Tortoises

March 1<sup>st</sup> – Rene Gandolfi, DVM  
Castro Valley Companion Animal Hospital  
-Herpes Virus in Tortoises

April 5<sup>th</sup> – Question and Answer Meeting-Bring  
your questions and we will have the Experts  
answer them.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kevin Norred SVTTC Adoptions  
Power Point presentation on Red Foot Tortoises

June 7<sup>th</sup> – Jennette Petrak , SVTTC Member  
Sea Turtles and Conservation in Costa Rica

July 5<sup>th</sup> – Open

August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Terry Burtz , SVTTC Member  
Living with Galapagos and Aldabra Tortoises

September 13<sup>th</sup> – Setting up the proper Aquatic  
Habitat (presentation still in the works)

October 4<sup>th</sup> – Open

November 1<sup>st</sup> – Open

December 6<sup>th</sup> –No Presentation

# Vice-President's Report( Cont.)

By Jessica Gopp

We are looking for the following items at a discount or to be donated to the club:

Projector (Table Top)

Projection Screen 60" x 60" minimum size

Turtle / Tortoise Videos / DVD

Thanks,  
Jessica Gopp

# Meeting Agenda:

- I. Membership Introductions
- II. Officer Introductions
- III. Officer's Reports
  - President-Joseph
  - Vice President-Jessica
  - Secretary-Philip
  - Membership -Dorothy
  - Treasurer-Gilbert
- IV. Adoption Chairman's Report-Kevin
- V. Librarian Report-Martha
- VI. Event Coordinator Report-Jennette
  - 2010 Events/Shows
- VII. Fundraiser Chairman Report-Lesa
  - I-Give & other online sites
  - Round Table Pizza
  - Baked Goods
  - Raffle
  - Items for Sale
- VIII. General Announcements
  - CTTC – Executive Meeting
  - SVTTC
    1. Local Events
  - Non Club Events
    1. B.A.A.R.S
  - Open Floor for anyone to announce events or activities
- VI. Newsletter - Kevin
  - Articles
  - Highlights and Info in newsletter

\*\*\*Stretch Break \*\*\*
- VIII. Radiated Tortoise Presentation –Kev
- IX. Open Floor
- X. Adjourn

The next meeting is Monday, March 1st, 2010 at 7:00 pm, same location.

# Membership Report

By Dorothy Castro

If your name is on this list, it is time to renew. Renewal Memberships can be extended by filling out a new application and mailing to:

**SILICON VALLEY TURTLE AND  
TORTOISE CLUB**  
Attn: Adoptions  
P.O. Box 64135  
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-4135

You can also give to an officer of the club or bring to the next general club meeting. If you have already sent your renewal in, just ignore the list.

Membership packages are as follows:

Yearly Dues:

**\$20.00 Individual & Family  
Membership**

**\$30.00 Supporter Membership**

**\$50.00 Benefactor Membership**

**\$100.00 Patron Membership**

**\$25.00 Canada / Mexico  
Membership**

**\$40.00 Other Foreign  
Membership**

**\$500 Life Membership**

Donations are always welcome.

## Memberships ready to expire:

SIDNEY	MONDSCHNEIN	ANTIOCH	08-01-2009
JAVIER	TORRES	SAN JOSE	08-09-2009
TERRY NADIA	BURTZ	CAMPBELL	09-01-2009
PHILIP	EDHOLM	SAN JOSE	09-01-2009
ERLINE	MELLO	SAN JOSE	09-01-2009
JIM, PIERCY & PAMALA	MILLIGEN	SANTA ROSA	09-01-2009
JOHUNA	PUENTES	SAN JOSE	09-01-2009
ROBI	ROBERTSON	SALINAS	09-01-2009
ROBERT	SHIELDS	GILROY	09-01-2009
SCOTT	ALEXANDER	GILROY	10-09-2009
CAROL	ANAYA	SAN JOSE	10-09-2009
STEVAN & CHRISTIE	CURTISS	TRACY	10-09-2009
DEBBIE	FITZGERALD	SAN JOSE	10-09-2009
COLEN & DIANE	FLAGG	SAN JOSE	10-09-2009
JEFF	GOODALL	PALO ALTO	10-09-2009
JERRY	GACH	SAN JOSE	11-01-2009
JOSEPH	LODOLCE	SAN JOSE	11-01-2009
CARA & ROBERT	MADDEN-WATSON	NEWARK	11-01-2009
JENNIFER	MOORE	MILPITAS	11-01-2009
STEVAN & NINA	DUQUETTE	SAN JOSE	11-09-2009
LISA	STAROBIN	SAN BRUNO	11-09-2009
SETIVA	WOODRING	SAN JOSE	11-09-2009
CLIFFORD & CATHERINE	ESCOBAR	SALINAS	12-01-2009
MEG	HILLMAN	HEALDSBURG	12-01-2009
TERRI LYN	MURPHY	SAN JOSE	12-01-2009
HANK AND JUDY	WOROPAY	SUNNYVALE	12-09-2009
John	Dicus	Nipomo	01-01-2010
MARIA	ESCOBAR	DALY CITY	01-01-2010
Lindy	Patania	La Selva Beach	01-01-2010
KATE	LIPMAN	FREMONT	02-01-2010
CAHTERINE	McKEEFERY	FREMONT	02-01-2010
LIZ	CLARK	OROVILLE	03-02-2010
PATRICK	COFFEY	BURLINGAME	03-02-2010
JENNIFER	HAYES	MEDESTO	03-02-2010
XIAOBO	CHU	SAN JOSE	03-06-2010
MARTHA	PUGNO	SAN JOSE	03-06-2010
SERGIO	THORSON-GARAY	SAN FRANCISCO	03-09-2010
CHUCK & PENNY	CARLE	CUPERTIONO	03-30-2010
DARLENE	COWLELL	SALIDA	03-30-2010

**Lets Renew to support the Club.  
Members not renewing will miss the  
awesome CTTC Tortuga Gazette  
published Bi- monthly.**

# **Event Coordinator's** **Report**

By Jennette Petrak

A few events are in the works! We are looking into doing some group visits with Bay Area zoo's and aquariums. We will also be having a BBQ in the summer and I will be working with Lisa Montoya, our fundraiser chairman, to plan a few fundraiser events. Members Gilbert and Dorothy Castro will be attending a few upcoming reptiles & Bird shows to represent the SVTTC.

We are currently looking at possibly doing some club meeting at special venues which might include the Oakland Zoo and other zoological institutions.

Also starting next month, I believe Kevin Norred is going to be working with Petco at Meridian Ave / Branham Rd to start displaying and representing SVTTC on their adoption days. This would be a great opportunity to show the public what the club is about and some of the potential pets that come up for adoption. Most likely we will not have much for adoption at the time, but this is a great time to reach out to the public.

The First Petco event will be February 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am to 2pm. If you are interested in helping, please see Kevin.

Jennette

# **FUNDRAISER** **CORNER**

By Lesa Montoya

The SVTTC had its first fundraiser bake sale last month. It was a great success! Special thanks to the bakers, Ana Sifuentes and myself. Anna made the moistest, mouthwatering, can't get it into my mouth fast enough, banana nut bread ever! She graciously donated six good-sized banana bread loaves. Also on the table were mini pineapple upside down cakes, mini lemon poppy seed cakes and two types of muffins. Simply scrumptious! I'm proud to report the sales generated \$82 total. Not bad for our first bake sale. In honor of St. Valentine's Day, February's bake sale will consist of chocolate baked goodies. I know that will make the members happy since the majority seems to have a chocolate sweet tooth.

I will be taking over the raffle drawing from Kevin. In the past there have been various vendors who have donated a large amount of items, which were raffled off. That supply has now been depleted. If you have any "New, Unused" items and would like to donate them, please see me at the meetings or contact me via email. I will do my best to continue the raffle drawing on a smaller scale until future vendor donations can be increased.

The event coordinator, Jeannette, and I will be combining efforts for the upcoming summer event and shows. We are looking to generate more fundraiser, donation dollars and to enhance, entice and educate the public's awareness of the unique turtle/tortoise population. More details to come. Any and all fundraiser ideas are always welcome. Please feel free to contact me.

Lesla Montoya

Some pictures from Lesa Montoya. Her Sulcata Taz and her grandsons Ducks all eating together.



## **SVTTC Sponsors**

The Silicon Valley Turtle and Tortoise Club is seeking out commercial sponsors from retail establishments and manufacturer's that would be interested in supporting the club with raffle donations, promotional items and discounts to the SVTTC membership. In return the sponsoring businesses would receive a business card ad in the SVTTC news and mentioned at promotional events. The SVTTC News is circulated to members and non-members of the SVTTC and reaches over 700 people monthly.

**I would like to thank the following:**

**SF Bay Brands  
Zoo Med  
Hagen**

**for their support this year. All companies have donated product for raffle and events. Thanks Again.**

The Following Retailers offer discounts for SVTTC / CTTC Members:

**None at this time (Stay Tuned)**

For More Information about meetings or the SVTTC, Please contact:

Kevin Norred, SVTTC Adoption Chairman  
(408) 482-5437 or

**[TORTOISEHOME@YAHOO.COM](mailto:TORTOISEHOME@YAHOO.COM)**

# SVTTC Donations

**Donate to support the SVTTC every time you search and shop online!** Simply by visiting the following online sites, every time you make a purchase with sponsoring sites such as Amazon or other big name sites, each company will contribute a small donation back to the club - *at no additional cost to you.*

- **iGive:** Sign up to donate to the Silicon Valley Turtle and Tortoise Club and shop at over 700 stores through this online shopping portal. iGive will donate a percentage of your purchase, and will make an additional \$5 donation when you shop within 45 days of registering. [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com)
- **GoodShop:** Select Silicon Valley Turtle and Tortoise Club at GoodShop and every time you make an online purchase, we will receive a contribution to benefit our club. GoodShop donations average approximately 3% of the sale, but go up to 20% or even more (depending on the retailer). [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com)
- **GoodSearch:** powered by Yahoo!, GoodSearch gives approximately 1 cent to SVTTC per search. Add their toolbar to your browser and help raise funds for the SVTTC. [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)
- **S.H.A.R.E. Cards:** Every time you shop at Lucky's , Save Mart or other participating retailers, show them your S.H.A.R.E. card prior to paying and 3% of all sales go back to the club. You can obtain a card from Kevin Norred
- **Round Table Pizza (Meeting night only):** Attached to this newsletter is a print out for those who will be eating at Round Table Pizza the evening of the meeting. 15% of all club member pizza sales go back to the club. Please print out the form and bring with you.

# Librarian Report

By Martha Pugno

I would like to introduce one of the many wonderful books that we have in our club library:

The book Box Turtles by Tess Cook was donated by Jennifer Moore to be raffled off to make money for our club. I won it in last month's raffle and am donating it to the library. It will be available for someone to check out at the next club meeting. This book has been signed by the author who, according to the book cover, "has been involved with box turtles since 1991 has an online box turtle care handbook and an online *Terrapene* discussion group. She is a wildlife rehabilitator and has rehabilitated dozens of box turtles". Also, as written on the back cover of the book, "this guide is a complete care manual for the interesting, colorful, and engaging box turtles. It contains information on both the North American box turtles and their Asian counterparts. The eye-catching sidebars, boxes, and photographs illustrate key topics essential to owners of these endearing reptiles. Box Turtles will help you keep your turtle healthy for all of his life". The book is 128 pages long and includes:

- Information on natural history
  - Instructions for creating the perfect habitat, including outdoor set ups
  - Detailed breeding and hibernation instructions
  - Current health care information
  - Complete care information on Asian and North American box turtles
- Happy reading and see you next meeting

Martha Pugno  
Club Librarian

## Are you a Club Member?

You **do not** have to be a member to attend the meetings but we would encourage it. If you would like to join the SVTTC, membership fee is \$20/yr and you can signup at the meeting or request a membership form by emailing [tortoisehome@yahoo.com](mailto:tortoisehome@yahoo.com) and mailing to the address on the form.

Benefits of being a member include an endless source of information, meet new friends with common interest, bi-monthly CTTC Tortuga Gazette Newsletter, ability to adopt through the CTTC Adoption program, receive discounts to businesses or shows when offered and have a lot of fun. Also, we will be having special events for SVTTC members.

Join Today!!!

## Club Meeting Donation Drawing:

By Kevin Norred

The club will be having a drawing to raise money for adoptions and club events. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each. We have a large assortment of food, filters, and Misc. items donated by several vendors. Please support the various programs. If you have "NEW" items that are still sealed and unused and would like to donate them, please see Lesa at the meetings.

## Current Events

### Upcoming Events:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| February 1 <sup>st</sup>                       | SVTTC Club Meeting<br>Presentation on Radiated<br>Tortoises by K.Norred |
| March 1 <sup>st</sup>                          | SVTTC Club Meeting<br>Presentation on Herpes<br>Virus in tortoises      |
| April 5 <sup>th</sup>                          | SVTTC Club Meeting<br>Ask the Experts                                   |
| April 10-11 <sup>th</sup>                      | San Mateo Herp World<br>Expo  |
| July 31 <sup>st</sup> – August 1 <sup>st</sup> | San Jose Herp World<br>Expo   |
| September 11-12 <sup>th</sup>                  | Anaheim Reptile Show  |
| September 18-19 <sup>th</sup>                  | Sacramento Reptile Show   |

### Future Newsletters:

If you have an article that you would like to contribute to the SVTTC or maybe write something that you may have experienced or an exciting tip, we are looking to add some fun stuff to the monthly newsletter. Please no copyrighted info.

# Reptile Vets

SVTTC members and non-members have recommended the following names and Veterinarian offices. These listings are for reference only.

## **VCA Orchard Plaza Animal Hospital**

Dr. Jennifer Star Seward, DVM  
Dr. Ian Stone, DVM  
San Jose, CA  
(408) 227-9110

## **Felton Veterinary Hospital**

Dr. Cathy Calvert, DVM  
Felton, CA  
(831) 335-3466

## **Sunnyvale Veterinary Clinic**

Dr. Raj Singh, DVM  
Sunnyvale, CA  
(408) 736-8929

## **Avian & Exotic Clinic of Monterey**

Dr. Shannon Thomas, DVM  
Dr. Amy Wells, DVM  
Monterey, CA  
(831) 647-1147

## **Valley Animal Hospital**

Dr. Christine McFadden  
Merced, CA  
(209) 384-7387

## **Wildwood Animal Hospital**

Dr. Chris Sanders, DVM  
Dr. Tina Peak, DVM  
Portola Valley, CA  
(650) 851-9453

## **Wildwood Animal Hospital**

Dr. Diana Welsh, DVM  
San Jose, CA  
(408) 265-8811

## **Berkeley Dog and Cat Hospital**

Dr. Kenneth Harkewicz, DVM  
Berkeley, CA  
(510) 848-5041

## **Canyon Veterinary Hospital**

Dr. R. Barrett, DVM  
Castro Valley, CA  
(510) 582-6704

## **Santa Clara Pet Hospital**

Dr. Kent Littlehale, DVM  
San Jose, CA  
(408) 227-9110

## **Castro Valley Companion Animal Hospital**

Rene Gandolfi, DVM  
Castro Valley, CA  
(510) 582-6311

## **Kirkwood Animal Hospital**

Dr. Garrett Okumara, DVM  
Campbell, CA  
(408) 374-5850

## **Sequoia Valley Veterinary Hospital**

Dr. Randall Popkin, DVM  
Santa Rosa, CA  
(707) 545-7387

## **Exotic Services Veterinarians U.C. Davis – Small Animal Hospital**

Davis, CA  
(530) 752-0186  
Emergency (530) 752-0186

If you have a vet that you have used for your reptiles, turtles and/or tortoises and would like to add him/her to this list, please let me know. Also if you are a Vet and would like to be added to this list, let me know.

Thanks

-Kevin

**February 18, 2007**

Kelly Hull of the Tortshack authorized this Article for reprint. ([www.tortshack.com](http://www.tortshack.com))

**Vitamin or mineral**

**Vitamin A**

Deficiency-Respiratory infections, wheezing, swollen eyelids, epithelial changes.

Treatment-Oral vitamin a or IM (Intramuscular shot), higher vitamin A content in diet, such as carrots.

**Vitamin E**

Deficiency-Steatitis, white muscle disease, fat tissue lesions, anorexia, visceral adhesions.

Treatment-Change in diet, selenium additive to food, oral or IM vitamin E.

**Vitamin K**

Deficiency-Gums bleeding, spontaneous hemorrhaging.

Treatment-Oral or IM vitamin K, Varied diet.

**Vitamin D**

Deficiency-Soft and brittle bones, bone fracturing, tremors, metabolic bone disease.

Treatment-Oral vitamin D or IM calcium. Change in diet. Proper artificial UV lighting.

**Thiamin**

Deficiency-Neuropathy, paralysis, muscular atrophy or muscle twitches, anorexia, sunken eyes.

Treatment-Oral or IM vitamin B, change in diet.

## How to Aid Vitamin and Mineral Deficiencies (Cont)

### **Vitamin or mineral**

#### **Biotin**

Deficiency-Muscular weakness or tremors, lethargy, anorexia.

Treatment-Oral vitamin B, change in diet.

#### **Riboflavin**

Deficiency-Paralysis.

Treatment-Oral or IM vitamin B.

#### **Vitamin C**

Deficiency-Stomatitis, gum bleeding, splitting of skin or scutes.

Treatment-Oral or IM vitamin C.

#### **Calcium**

Deficiency-Same as Vitamin D deficiency.

Treatment-IM Calcium Glugonate, Oral Calcium lactate, Oral vitamin D3, change in diet.

#### **Iodine**

Deficiency-Hypothyroidism, goiter, anorexia, lethargy, edema.

Treatment-Oral Iodide salts, change in diet.

#### **Selenium**

Deficiency-Same as Vitamin E deficiency.

Treatment-Change in diet, selenium additive to food, oral or IM vitamin E.

# Adoption Report

By Kevin Norred

Hi Everyone,

Not too much to report right now on Adoptions. I am finally getting caught up on paperwork and trying to get more organized in record keeping. I finally got to attend one of the Executive Board meetings on January 16<sup>th</sup> in Southern California and learned that there is more paperwork to be done. The CTTC keeps accurate records of what comes and goes within each chapter, the sex and size of the animals as well. I just have been keeping numbers on those that we adopt out. So I have some more work to do.

This month we took in a small Russian Tortoise, Box Turtles, a handful of Red Ear Sliders and 5 Desert Tortoises. Homes are pending for everything but the sliders. I can't wait for spring to arrive so we can utilize many of our outdoor pond homes.

While attending the Executive Board meeting, one of the subjects that came up was adoption fees and surrender fees. With all the animals coming and going, we incur expenses in feed, medical and other supplies. We have been very fortunate in our chapter to have help with outside donations, but many of the other chapters have little to no donations at all. So in the next 4-5 months, the CTTC will be working on a plan or program that will help establish a small donation fee for all tortoises excluding the California Desert Tortoise. Donations can be accepted, but no fees can be asked. We are looking also at asking surrender fees on common species that tend to be held for periods of time in our care to help offset some of the cost. Fees will be small but this will help. The next meeting in April will go more into depth on this and the CTTC will make a decision whether to proceed with this or allow the individual chapters to proceed as needed.

At one time this year, I had over 300+

Gotten the best of some of us. Many of the potential homes either never responds back in a few days or weeks and/or many of the homes cannot provide the proper care needed for the species requested or any species at all. Almost 50% of the applications requesting turtles and tortoises cannot accommodate anything over a 40-gallon tank. I think 25% of the applications requested Sulcata Tortoises and didn't have appropriate space to house them even at 30-50lbs. So currently the applications have dwindled down to manageable amounts. I still have several applications to review when upcoming tortoises/turtles come available for adoption. In the next newsletter, I will publish a list of applications whose names are on file. This will confirm with everyone if I have them or not.

For those that have been calling, emailing or filling out applications for Female Sulcata's, Female Leopards and Female California Deserts, your wait is going to be long. Almost all the rescues we take in are males. I have seen one female Sulcata come in over a 2-year period and 1 Female California Desert Tortoise. I will do my best to accommodate the request, but I just cannot fulfill everyone's request. For those wanting females of any species, I can point you in the right direction to purchase something from a local dealer or breeder possibly but excluding CDT's. Some other good sources to look to are [www.kingsnake.com](http://www.kingsnake.com) or [www.tortoiseforum.org](http://www.tortoiseforum.org). Both these sites offer classifieds.

Last month I mentioned we are looking at some alternatives for holding ponds for aquatics. A friend of mine Yvonne from Clovis has offered me some help so I am going to be visiting her in February to see what she has. I hope everything works out. We are still in need of Pond filters and UV filters.

Until next month, have a safe and dry month!!!

-Kevin Norred

## California Club News

If you are part of a club or organization related to Turtles / Tortoises and would like to post some current news, please give Kevin Norred a call or email.

### Sacramento Turtle & Tortoise Club

President: Felice Rood

#### 2010 Meeting Dates

April 17<sup>th</sup>  
July 17<sup>th</sup> \*  
August 21<sup>st</sup> \* 11 – 4pm  
October 16<sup>th</sup> \*

\* Meeting dates not confirmed yet

Adoptions: Lots of Red Ear Sliders & Occasional Sulcata's

For more information about the Sacramento Turtle & Tortoise Club, please contact Felice Rood at [felicerood@compuserve.com](mailto:felicerood@compuserve.com) or visit [www. Turtlebunker.com](http://www.Turtlebunker.com)

### Merced Turtle & Tortoise Club

Pending Chapter of the CTTC  
President: Alex Lu-Pon

Contact info: [CTTC.Merced@gmail.com](mailto:CTTC.Merced@gmail.com)

## Bay Area Amphibian & Reptile Society

President: Scott Alexander

Hello All -

2010 Presentations:

Feb - Dr. Beth Dawson - Love life of Lizards and Snakes. Beth Dawson is a herpetologist who teaches at San Jose State University and has done field research on several species of herps.

March - Julie Bergman - "Gecko Journey - My life with 80+ species of geckos" Julie Bergman, President of GGA, Global Gecko Association, will be discussing breeding and husbandry of Geckos and how she got to where she is. Julie also runs the "Gecko Ranch", [www.geckoranch.com](http://www.geckoranch.com), and is a very successful breeder of Geckos.

Sincerely,

Scott Alexander

Adoptions: Contact Setiva Woodring for current list of Reptiles for adoption. Her email is [gobaars@yahoo.com](mailto:gobaars@yahoo.com)

For more information about the Bay Area Amphibian and Reptile Society, please contact Scott Alexander at [alexander\\_scott@yahoo.com](mailto:alexander_scott@yahoo.com) or visit [www.baars.org](http://www.baars.org)

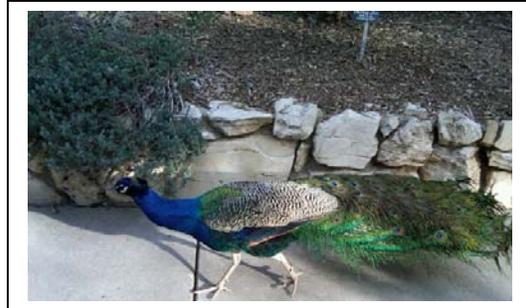
# The January 16<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting

By Jessica Gopp, SVTTC VP

The Executive meeting was fun and eventful. Kevin and I made a mini vacation out of the trip. We haven't had a road trip in sometime with all the animals at home. Seems the work is more that people want to do.

We traveled down Friday afternoon to help beat the traffic. It took us a total of 6-7 hours to get there. There is always traffic in Los Angeles no matter what time it is. The car ride was nice because Kevin did all the driving while I slept. With Kevin's new diet, it was hard for him to pass up all the In-n-Out Burger's along the way. On Saturday morning, we got up early and wanted to go check out the meeting site to make sure we knew where it was so we would not be late. Our intentions were to go drive around afterwards until the meeting time but when we saw where the meeting was held, we changed our minds. The Meeting was held at The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens in Arcadia, CA. When we first walked up, there were these beautiful peacocks standing at the entrance. We decided to go for a morning walk and about an hour and a half later; we only walked maybe a 1/3 of the park. I took some nice pictures of our walk. It was so relaxing and peaceful. There were so many different exotic plants and trees. Kevin kept trying to figure out how he could make our backyard like this. We can't wait to go back and see everything in full bloom.

Kevin had already known a lot of people in the meeting just from emailing and talking on the phone. It was nice to put the name with the face. They were all very nice people. I didn't realize how many people revolve their lives around the turtles and tortoises besides us. Some people such as Don Williams were there do nothing but study Desert Tortoises and could tell you just about anything you wanted to know about them. He has a very nice website, check it out: [www.donsdeserttortoises.com](http://www.donsdeserttortoises.com).



Cont. on next page

The Chairman, Dave Friends, started the meeting. Dave has a long history with Exotic Turtles and Tortoises since he was a child and currently runs a Sulcata Tortoise Rescue, which is full now, surprise! Dave surprisingly was leaving the day following the meeting to Africa to visit the native tortoises. In Dave's opening remarks, he committed on how the passion and love for turtles and tortoises is what makes the CTTC what it is today. Every member no matter what position they hold if it is a member or an officer is as important as the next. Dave also committed on that he has been hearing back from people who receive the Tortuga Gazette from all over the world in Europe and the UK and how nice our newsletters are. He doesn't know how they get it, but he was amazed how we connect with so many people one way or another.

After introductions, Tom Paquette from the OC Chapter brought to the attention of the CTTC board and the officers of the chapters and presented an award from an anonymous donor a check in the amount of \$3000 to be given to the CTTC with instructions that this money be funded towards education and activities related to educate to the public. The CTTC will be utilizing this money in future activities.

The meeting had many subjects that were brought to the attention of the Executive Board. One of the major subjects was the Snapper Program. The Snapper Program was started last year and came to a stand still and left alone, but Kevin, Dave Friend and Sharon Paquette are all taking control and over the next 6 months will be establishing a solid program for Snappers taken in and turned over to the CTTC. Kevin has been doing research the past two months and establishing institutions, farms and collectors who will pay for all expenses including crating and shipping of any and all snappers. Kevin was pretty much selected to lead the program with the support of Sharon and Dave. Dave has been following up on Kevin's leads by contacting Animal Controls or State Authorities to make sure that the leads that Kevin has found are reputable sources and are not breaking any rules within the states. Our mission is to ship all snappers out of state without them going to places that will sell them or distribute them as a food source. All animals are to go to places that will keep and house them, rehabilitate them for release or place them back into the Pet Trade where it is legal to do so.

Another subject that popped up was that some places in Southern California are working on a "Head Start" program for California Desert Tortoises. What they are doing is taking eggs from dug up sites, eggs from private individuals and hatching them out and raising them to 1 year old and releasing them back into the wild. Since the Micro plasma virus is not transferred in the embryo state, it is safe to do this. This is a fairly new program so more details will follow as the program continues.

The Sale of undersized turtles and tortoises was talked about, specifically the Red Ear Sliders. It was concluded as a group, no matter what we do to stop the Red Ear Sliders from selling less than 4 inches, another species will step in. It is a cycle that cannot be stopped. With so many of the states back east relying on the sales revenues from Turtles Farms producing them for export, there just isn't a way to stop the farming of them. We can potentially stop the sale to California thru the Department of Fish and Game, but it will be a long battle. Once you stop Red Ear Sliders, then another species will take over and the cycle will continue. The biggest step we can take with the CTTC is to educate the public, pet stores and pet traders.

Adoptions were a huge subject at the meeting. Many ideas were presented such as Adoption fees and surrender fees. The next Executive meeting will focus more on this and each chapter will need to bring a Pros/Cons sheet back and discuss this more. Kevin mentioned that he had been working with local Petco's in our area to help cycle Red Ear Sliders back into the Pet Trade instead of introducing more. This would eliminate more RES purchased from farms or dealers. All this is being worked out, as there are some liability and legal issues. In the meantime, we will be working with Petco to do adoption fair days and adopt out at these events. (Cont on next page)

As the meeting went on, the chapters mentioned steps we can all do as a group. It is very hard for a group of individuals from different chapters and regions of the state to efficiently work on something and it was suggested that in lieu of committees forming for different items, individual chapters would be responsible for projects. Since Northern California is more apt to have more Western pond Turtles, those clubs residing up North would work on projects to include them. Southern Cal chapters would focus on California Deserts and so on. Other things would be fundraising, grants and misc items that would benefit the CTTC and chapters.

Finances of the individual chapters were given as well. Many chapters are sitting on nice sums up money while others can barely pay for newsletters. They mentioned chapters sponsoring other chapters on projects and such to help fund activities. Chapters with large sums of money should reach out to programs such as conservation projects that relate to turtles and tortoises, do educational activities to reach out to the public, and promotion of the clubs. Fundraising has been a problem for most chapters. Adoption Fees would help some of these clubs. Also, ideas were presented on what to do to make some money. Some clubs have done bake sales, calendars, and outreach programs with animals on display with donation boxes, and auctions of items. We really liked the calendar idea. I bought one for show and tell at the meeting. If we can find a cheap way to make them and add our own pictures of tortoises and turtles, I think we can be very successful!

At the end of the meeting Dave asked that those attending the next Executive meeting in April bring back with them some ideas and info. He would like each club to write at least one article for the Tortuga Gazette per quarter reflecting the status of the chapters or events in our areas. Each club is to bring with them the Pros and Cons of what they think about charging adoption and surrender fees. Also, each club is to identify any projects they would like to get involved with and break down what is needed.

Care sheets of the CTTC website are currently being updated. Kevin will be working on taking care sheets and making them specific for the Northern California Area. There is no one way to care for them, but the care sheets will be general and for the Novice keeper.

Total 2009 CTTC adoptions were 1,828 total tortoises and turtles.

That sums up the Executive Meeting. We can't wait for next time.

Thanks,  
Jessica

# Tortoises for Adoption

The Turtles and Tortoises listed and/or available through the SVTTC are for the prospective benefit of the SVTTC members and potential new owners. No guarantees as to the health, suitability, or legality of the adopted turtles and tortoises as pets is neither expressed nor implied. The SVTTC does its best to examine all turtles and tortoises to deem healthy prior to release. No hidden illnesses that can be detected at the time of physical examination will be held against the SVTTC. When adopting a new turtle or tortoise, it is recommended that each animal be quarantined for at least 90 days from any other existing turtles/tortoises.

## Turtles/Tortoise Available

- 20+ Red Ear Slider Aquatic Turtles Various Sizes  
Requirements: Must have at least 50 gallon tank for one and/or at least 100 gallons or more for multiple turtles.
- 5 California Desert Tortoises transferred from the Palm Springs Living Desert at the January Executive meeting
- 1 Sulcatas ( 8-10" ) ( Drop off Pending )
- 5 Box Turtles
- 1 Russian Tortoise Male

## Turtles / Tortoises Adopted out in January

**Adoptions pending**

## Club Member Classifieds / Wanted:

- TORTOISE SUPPLIES – PROCEEDS GO TO SVTTC ADOPTIONS  
Contact Kevin Norred @ (408) 482-5437 or tortoisehome@yahoo.com  
For CTTC Members only- Quantities Limited

*Bigger quantity can be purchased. Call for price*

*Small K & H Heat Pads 12.5" X 18.5"	\$45.00 (Petco Price \$70.00)
*Medium K & H Heat Pads 16.5" X 22.5"	\$50.00 (Petco Price \$80.00)
*Large K & H Heat Pads 22.5" X 28.5"	\$60.00 (Petco Price \$100.00)

- WANTED: Tortoises  
Looking for the following Tortoises: Elongated Females, Leopard Females, Red Foot Females, Pancake Males and Females.  
Contact Kevin Norred email [Tortoisehome@yahoo.com](mailto:Tortoisehome@yahoo.com) (408) 482-5437
- FOR SALE: 2009 Russian Tortoise Hatchlings  
They were incubated at 89.5F for females. Price is \$125ea  
Location: Concord  
Contact Dan Goemmel at (925) 825-6361 or email [kq6ar@astound.net](mailto:kq6ar@astound.net)
- FOR SALE: 2009 Marginated Tortoise Hatchlings  
They were incubated at 89.5F for females. Price is \$125ea  
Location: Concord  
Contact Dan Goemmel at (925) 825-6361 or email [kq6ar@astound.net](mailto:kq6ar@astound.net)

## Commercial Vendors / Retailers

Are you interested in advertising in one of the leading Turtle and Tortoise Newsletters in California? If you would like your logo or business card inserted in one of the below squares, please contact Kevin @ [Tortoisehome@yahoo.com](mailto:Tortoisehome@yahoo.com) Sponsoring Vendors are waived any fees. Non Sponsoring Vendors, \$20 donation a month.



Your Business Card  
Here

Your Business Card  
Here



**The Last Honest Pizza.™**

# **Silicon Valley Turtle and Tortoise Club Fundraiser**

Please join us to help raise funds for the Silicon Valley Turtle and Tortoise Club while we have a great time. Come help us out, and help you to the freshest, best-tasting pizza in town.

**Just bring this flyer with you on the date below and give it to the order taker before you order. We'll give 15% of your order (excluding sales tax) to the Silicon Valley Turtle and Tortoise Club.**

**Date: Monday February 1st**  
**(Call in your order early to avoid delay)**

**Time: 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting starts at 7pm**

**Location: 14940 Camden Avenue**  
**San Jose, CA 95124**  
**(408) 371-9550**