

# *SVTTC News*

*California Turtle and Tortoise Club  
May 2009*



Photo by Robert Shields

## **Next Meeting:**

Next club meeting is **Monday, May 4th** at 7pm. Banquet room is open at 5pm.

## **Location:**

### **Round Table Pizza**

14940 Camden Avenue (Corner of Union and Camden Ave)

San Jose, CA 95128

(408) 371-9550

## • **Speaker of the Month: Mike Milne**

Sea Turtle Conservationist Mike Milne will discuss the past, present and future of leatherback sea turtles in the Pacific Ocean. Leatherbacks have survived in our oceans for millions of years, but in the last 25 years their population has decreased by ~ 90%. Can the Pacific leatherback population recover and is there enough genetic diversity in the remaining population to buffer against future threats? Come learn about how humans impact Pacific leatherback turtles and how you can help save this magnificent species!

- **SVTTC Meeting Agenda: Joseph Alvarado**

- I. Introductions
- II. Treasurer's Report
- III. Adoption Coordinator's Report
- IV. Executive Board Meeting Report
- V. Announcements
  - Fundraisers
    - Round Table Pizza
    - Heating Pads, Tortoise Food & Calcium
  - Committees to be Established
    - Veterinarian Roster
    - Club Logo
    - Outings & Shows(i.e., Turtle BBQ, Vasona Turtle Walk & Reptile Shows)  
Executive Board meeting April 11, 2009
- VI. Presentation
- VII. Adjourn

The next meeting is Monday, June 1, 2009 at 7:00 pm, same location.

- **Executive Board Meeting Report: Robert Shields**

Robert and Philip went to the Executive Board Meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Robert will be giving us an up to date report on the status of some projects and conservation efforts that the CTTC and its local chapters are working on. Also, the CTTC has asked each and every chapter to donate funds towards the "Snapper Turtle Relocation Project".

- **"Gus" the Galapagos Tortoise's Birthday Party**

SVTTC members Terry and Nadia Burtz of Campbell have invited everyone over to their house to celebrate one of their Galapagos tortoise's Birthdays. Gus will be 25 years old. He only weighs about 400+ pounds. The date will be August 8<sup>th</sup> and times will be established, as we get closer. Come join them for some BBQ and refreshments. They have many tortoises, which include Galapagos Tortoises, Aldabra Tortoises, Sulcata's, and a Leopard Tortoise looking for a girlfriend.

Stay tuned for more info.

- **CTTC Conservation info:**

The CTTC is working on a couple different projects that reflect the California Desert Tortoise. Please visit [www.tortoise.org](http://www.tortoise.org) for up to date info.

- **YAHOO Groups:**

The SVTTC is now on Yahoo Groups. Setiva has started a group for everyone to talk about local events. Here is the link to the site:

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

- **CTTC Snapper Turtle Relocation Program:**

The CTTC and several other local chapters are working together to help relocate Common Snappers and Alligator Snappers out of the state. The California Department of Fish and Game has a zero tolerance for these species and any and all snappers taken in must be relocated out of state to educational institutes, breeders or rehabilitators. Robert Shields from the SVTTC will be helping coordinate any and all efforts for Northern California. The biggest trouble to this program is expense due to shipping. Funding has been offered for Alligator Snappers, but the Common Snappers are more plentiful and not in demand. With this, all shipping and care cost come from the CTTC and its local chapters. The CTTC has asked all its chapters to make a donation to the CTTC to establish a working fund. If you would like to make a donation on behalf of the Snapper Relocation program, please contact one of the SVTTC officers.

- **Upcoming Events:**

<b>May 16-17<sup>th</sup></b>	S.F. Cow Palace Reptile Show
<b>June?</b>	Day in the Park at Vasona Park in Los Gatos
<b>August 8<sup>th</sup></b>	San Jose Reptile Show
<b>August 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Gus's Birthday Party



Photo by Robert Shields

- **Having Dinner at Round Table Pizza?**

Attached to this email (end of newsletter) is a print out for those who will be eating at Round Table Pizza. 15% of all club member sales go back to the club. Please print out the form and bring with you. If you forget, see Kevin in the meeting room before purchasing a meal. If possible, please turn in receipts to Joseph so we can keep track of the money spent as well.

- **Are you a Club Member?**

You **do not** have to be a member to attend the meeting. 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 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.

- **Committee Members Needed!!!**

The SVTTC Board is looking for a group of individuals to coordinate some projects. These projects include the following:

**Logo Design**

**Show/Event Coordinator**

**Veterinarian Listings**

- **Adoptions:**

These are the turtles/tortoises that I currently have taken in for adoption.

Sulcata Male 19" in length

Sulcata Male 17" in length

Juvenile California Desert Tortoises

Red Ear Sliders (Dianne)

*Adoptions is looking for donations of Food/Water bowls, Heat Bulbs and Adhesive back heat pads. Local Pet Store Gift Cards welcome.*

- **Adoptions/ Animals taken in and/or placed to date:**

**Last month adoptions:**

7 Juvenile Desert Tortoises

2 sub adult Desert Tortoises

2 Adult Red Ear Sliders

2 Hatchling Red Ear Sliders

Leopard Tortoise uncovered after a Sulcata decided to use the Lavender plant as a scratch post. – Photo by K.Norred

June 2008 to Present

**Tortoises**

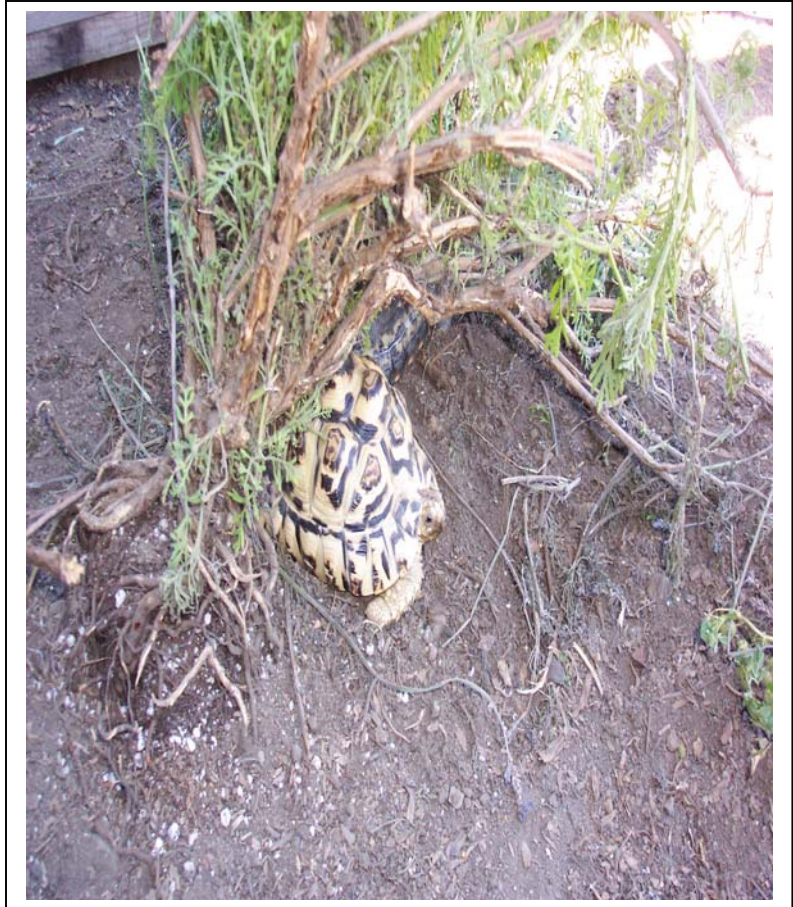
Sulcata Tortoise	-(8+)
Leopard Tortoise	- (0)
Red Foot Tortoise	- (3)
Russian Tortoise	- (6+)
Greek Tortoise	- (0)
California Desert Tortoise-	(41+)

**Box Turtles**

3-Toed Box Turtle	- (3+)
Eastern Box Turtle	- (0)
Gulf Coast Box Turtle	- (0)
Ornate Box turtle	- (0)

**Aquatic Turtles**

Red Ear Slider Turtle	- (33+)
Painted Turtle	- (0)
Common Snapper Turtle	- (3)
Wood Turtles	- (1)
Mississippi Map Turtle	- (2)
Florida Red Bellied Slider	- (2)
Western Pond Turtle	- (1) Relocated to Fish & Game (Monterey Bay Aquarium)



*Animals received and lost do to Previous Owner Neglect/In-proper Care / or Other (3)*

● **Club Donation Drawing:**

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.

**Would you like a free Raffle Ticket?**

We are going to try each month to give you some information on a particular species of Turtle or Tortoise throughout the world and if you can guess what the species is, write down the answer on a blank piece of paper with your name and email info on it. When you come to the club meeting, turn these sheets into Robert. If correct, you will get a free raffle ticket towards one of our great drawing of prizes we have.

## Here is the Trivia Question:

### **What Species of Turtle / Tortoise Am I?**

Clues:

1. This species of Turtle/Tortoise is in the Testudinidae Family and the Geochelone Genus. It has been mistakenly placed in the Astrochelys family in the past.
2. The Adult size range from 12-16" in length and can weigh as much as 35lbs
3. This particular species is native to regions within Madagascar and introduced to surrounding islands.
4. This species is an herbivore
5. Is a member of the CITES Appendix 1 that prohibits importation/exportation.
6. Natives call this tortoise "Sokakes"
7. This tortoise holds the record for having the longest lived tortoise at 188 years of age
8. Pet Retail Price average \$800-8000.00
9. This species of Turtle/Tortoise was placed on the SSP or Species Survival plan in 1985 and is closely tracked by a studbook for Genetics.
10. This tortoise prefers dry regions of brush, thorn (Diderae) forest and woodlands.
11. Average lifespan is 40-50 years in captivity

**What species of Turtle or Tortoise am I? \_\_\_\_\_**

*Answer to last months Trivia question was: **Elongated Tortoise***

## Club Member Classifieds:

- **TORTOISE/TURTLES**

Tortoises and Turtles for Sale

Tortoises: Leopard \$100, Elongata \$100, Florestein \$100, Star \$450, Egyptian \$500

Turtles: Eastern Box \$25.00, Gulf Coast Box \$25.00, European Pond \$100,

Reeves \$25, Painted \$25

Contact: Bob or Judy Thomas (805) 481-5222 or email [Thomas-turtles@juno.com](mailto:Thomas-turtles@juno.com)

**Sales to CTTC Members only**

- **TORTOISE SUPPLIES – PROCEEDS GO TO SVTTC ADOPTIONS**

Calcium Powder 1lb.	\$ 5.00
Mazuri Tortoise Chow Pellets 2lb	\$10.00
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"	\$55.00 (Petco Price \$100.00)

**For CTTC Members only- Quantities Limited**

**Contact Kevin Norred @ (408) 482-5437 or tortoisehome@yahoo.com**

- **WANTED: TORTOISES**

Looking for adult or sub adult Red Foot Tortoises or Cherry Head Tortoises  
- LTC or Domestic Bred preferred.

Contact Kevin at [T34RACING@YAHOO.COM](mailto:T34RACING@YAHOO.COM)

- **WANTED: GREEK TORTOISES (FEMALES)**

Looking for adult or sub adult Greek Female Tortoises  
- LTC or Domestic Bred preferred.

Contact Kevin at [T34RACING@YAHOO.COM](mailto:T34RACING@YAHOO.COM)

- **FOR SALE: 55 GALLON PREFORMED POND LINERS**

I have (1) preformed black pond liners that were donated to the SVTTC Adoptions and we are looking to sell them for a donation of \$25ea. It is in excellent condition. If you would like to have a small pond, this is the way to go.

**\*For CTTC Members only- Quantities Limited**

**Contact Kevin Norred @ (408) 482-5437 or tortoisehome@yahoo.com**

- **FOR SALE: GIANT LEOPARD TORTOISES (Yearlings) Pardalis Pardalis**

Local Pick up only (San Jose)

These are the largest species of Leopard Tortoise. \$250.00

Contact: Jerry Gach (408) 227-5267 or email [jerrygach@comcast.net](mailto:jerrygach@comcast.net)

- **WANTED: NEED HOME (TEMP) FOR DESERT TORTOISE (CHARLEY)**

80-Year-old Male Desert Tortoise looking for temporary home for the months of July through Spring 2010. Expenses paid. Home could lead to permanent possibly.

Owner would like tortoise to stay in or around Portola Valley or similar climate. Has lived with owner for 40years.

Contact Scott Simmons at [scottsimmons10@comcast.net](mailto:scottsimmons10@comcast.net) or (650) 854-5587. Prefer morning calls but leave message and will return ASAP.

- **FOR SALE: LEOPARD TORTOISES (1 YR OLD) Pardalis Pardalis**

\$250.00 SVTTC Member discount - \$175ea

Contact: Gilbert Castro email [dotboop@earthlink.net](mailto:dotboop@earthlink.net)

# *S VTTC Contacts:*

President: Joseph Alvarado info@reptilecompany.com  
Vice President: Robert Shields thegenerousdaneskitchen@hotmail.com  
Secretary: Philip Edholm philipbmi@aol.com  
Treasurer: Gilbert Castro DotBoop@earthlink.net  
Adoptions Chairman: Kevin Norred tortoisehome@yahoo.com  
Board of Directors: Setiva Woodring gobaars@yahoo.com  
Board of Directors: Yvonne(Corky) Mariani cmari2235@aol.com  
Board of Directors: Kevin Norred [tortoisehome@yahoo.com](mailto:tortoisehome@yahoo.com)

## *Special Committee Contacts:*

Show /Event Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ (Position(s)  
Available)  
Website Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ (Position(s) Available)  
Club Logo Committee (temporary) \_\_\_\_\_ (Position(s) Available)  
Veterinarian Contact Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ (Position(s) Available)

# *S VTTC SPONSORS*

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)





**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 May 4th**  
**(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 95128**

**(408) 371-9550**



Can you spot the 3-Toed Box Turtle? One of many Box Turtles in Kevin Norred's habitat. - Photo by K.Norred

### **Do you have a Veterinarian that you use?**

Do you have a Veterinarian that you recommend for your turtle or tortoise? The SVTTC is putting together a list of recommended Veterinarians who specialize in Reptiles, Turtles and Tortoises in case someone within the club or outside the club needs a Vet. We are looking for Veterinarians who have specific knowledge about Aquatic Turtles, Box Turtles and Tortoises. If you have a Vet that you have worked with in the past and were very happy with their customer service, knowledge and care please email Kevin Norred at [Tortoisehome@yahoo.com](mailto:Tortoisehome@yahoo.com). We appreciate any feedback. Please title your email in the subject header" **Recommended Vets**"

### **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 a exciting tip, we are looking to add some fun stuff to the monthly newsletter. Please no copyrighted info.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

To join CTTC, please mail your completed application form and check or money order to the Chapter of your choice.  
 ◀ Chapter addresses are located on the left panel of this page.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

- \$20<sup>00</sup> ..... Individual and Family
- \$30<sup>00</sup> ..... Supporter
- \$50<sup>00</sup> ..... Benefactor
- \$100<sup>00</sup> ..... Patron
- \$25<sup>00</sup> ..... Canada and Mexico (U.S. funds only)
- \$40<sup>00</sup> ..... Other Foreign (U.S. funds only)
- \$500<sup>00</sup> ... Life Member (one-time fee)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Contribution
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount enclosed

California Turtle & Tortoise Club is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



Image: Tortoise. Photo by Tina Horatz.

### INTERESTS/SKILLS

I know about/can help with:

- desert tortoises
- other tortoises
- box turtles
- water turtles
- exotic turtles
- other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_
- health care
- legal issues
- financial issues
- conservation issues
- publications



Western Pond turtle. Photo by Ramsey Stroud

For CHAPTER USE Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Cash/Check/Money Order  
 Chapter Joined \_\_\_\_\_

For the Silicon Valley Turtle & Tortoise Club

Mail applications to:

SVTTC  
 Attn: Membership  
 P.O. Box 64135  
 Sunnyvale, CA 94088-4135

CALIFORNIA TURTLE & TORTOISE CLUB  
 and TORTUGA GAZETTE Editorial Office  
 P. O. Box 7300, Van Nuys, CA 91409-7300

California Turtle & Tortoise Club is run by volunteers and we greatly appreciate your help. Thank you for your support.

Please contact CTTC if you are interested in informing a CTTC chapter in your area.



Side of a Tortoise. Photo by Zacky Waldum

California Turtle & Tortoise Club is dedicated to turtle and tortoise preservation, conservation and education.

### Online [www.tortoise.org](http://www.tortoise.org)

The California Turtle & Tortoise Club invites you to visit its award-winning website to learn more about turtles.

- Calendar of events
- Turtle help line and species care sheets
- Conservation news and information
- Turtle photo gallery and audio files of tortoise calls
- Chelonian archives
- Recommended reading and bookstore
- Links to turtle and tortoise resources worldwide
- Download sample issues of the *Tortuga Gazette*
- Sign up for the CTTC\_Turtle\_And\_Tortoise List

***Purchase books, magazines, music and software and support California Turtle & Tortoise Club!***

Click on the special links to Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble.com to make your purchases. CTTC receives commissions from your purchases which help maintain its website and support its educational, humane and conservation activities.

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

California Turtle & Tortoise Club members enjoy the following benefits and privileges:

- Subscription to the *Tortuga Gazette*, the CTTC newsletter featuring articles on turtle and tortoise health, care, conservation, Club activities, and other turtle-related stories and news items.
- Regular Chapter meetings with programs featuring guest speakers, video and slide presentations, question-and-answer sessions, and a chance to socialize and share information with other Club members.
- Access to turtle and tortoise care and adoption information at the meetings. Some Chapters have extensive book and video lending libraries.
- Ability to participate in Chapter activities such as shows and exhibits, field trips and symposia, and to vote in Chapter elections.
- Knowledge that they are supporting CTTC's turtle and tortoise rescue, adoption, conservation and public education programs.



Resting Tortoise. Photo by Don Williams

The California Turtle & Tortoise Club Executive Board coordinates Club-wide activities and prints CTTC publications. The mailing address for the CTTC Executive Board and the *Tortuga Gazette* Editorial Office is:

Post Office Box 7300  
Van Nuys, California 91409-7300

# CALIFORNIA TURTLE & TORTOISE CLUB



Desert Tortoise. Photo by Shanna Haber



Red-eared Slider. Photo by Michael J. Connor



Box Turtle. Photo by Dave Friend

Since 1964, Promoting and Facilitating the Care, Rescue and Adoption of Native and Non-native Turtle Species.



CALIFORNIA TURTLE AND TORTOISE CLUB

TURTLE & TORTOISE ADOPTION APPLICATION

<u>Club use</u>	
Date in	__/__/__
Date out	__/__/__
I.D.#	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Night \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence type: House ; Condo ; Apartment ; Other \_\_\_\_\_

What type of turtle/tortoise do you wish to adopt (only one per application)? \_\_\_\_\_

What size? Hatchling ; Juvenile ; Adult male ; Adult female

Are you willing to adopt a desert tortoise that has had upper respiratory tract disease? Yes ; No

Do you currently have a turtle/tortoise? If so, please list species: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you had a turtle/tortoise in the past? Yes ; No  If yes, what kind and what happened to it? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to adopt a turtle/tortoise? \_\_\_\_\_

How many children are in your household? \_\_\_\_\_ List ages \_\_\_\_\_

Do they realize turtles/tortoises should not be handled any more than necessary and not by young children? Have you considered the impact children playing in the yard will have on the turtle/tortoise?

How many dogs do you have? \_\_\_\_\_ Will the turtle/tortoise be in the same area? Yes ; No

Many dogs behave well around turtles/tortoises but biting and chewing are common instincts dogs have that are dangerous to turtles/tortoises. Dogs must not be left unattended with turtles.

Will the turtle/tortoise be kept indoors ; or outdoors?

How large is the area? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a swimming pool? Yes ; No . If yes, is the pool fenced to prevent a turtle/tortoise from falling in? Yes ; No

Is your yard completely fenced? Yes ; No ; What kind of fencing? \_\_\_\_\_

Wooden or chain-link fences should have a barrier buried in the ground to stop a tortoise from digging out. Chain-link fences should have 12 inch high boards secured around the base to prevent a turtle/tortoise from seeing through and getting caught in the wire.

Is there a permanent barrier across the base of all gate openings? Yes ; No

The barrier should be at least 12 inches high so that a turtle/tortoise cannot see through or climb over. The barrier should remain in place when the gate is open or closed.

Does each gate self close and latch securely? Yes ; No

When closed, will the gate keep dogs out? Yes ; No

Are sun, shade and dry soil available to a turtle/tortoise throughout the day and year? Yes ; No   
Is water available so that a turtle/tortoise has easy access in and out to bathe or drink? Yes ; No   
The container should be level with the ground. Flat rocks, bricks, etc. placed on the ground will help keep mud out of the dish.

Are growing grass and weeds available for the tortoise? Yes ; No

Are you aware of the nutritional needs of a turtle/tortoise? Yes ; No

Have you read through the appropriate care-sheet? Yes ; No

You can find CTTC care sheets and other information online at <http://www.tortoise.org>

Do you agree not to use pelleted pesticides, fertilizer or weed killer within reach of the turtle/tortoise? Yes ; No

Have you eliminated poisonous plants, stairs and other landscape hazards? Yes ; No

You will need to make arrangements for the care of the turtle/tortoise while you are away for long periods. Do you agree? Yes ; No

Are you willing to pay for veterinary services that your turtle/tortoise may need? Yes ; No

Are you a member of the California Turtle & Tortoise Club? Yes ; No . If yes, which chapter? \_\_\_\_\_ . If no, would you like to join the Club? Yes ; No

Members may get priority in the placement of some animals

Turtles/tortoises placed through California Turtle & Tortoise Club adoption programs may not be sold and must be returned to CTTC if you are no longer able to care for them? Do you agree? Yes ; No

This form will be forwarded to the CTTC chapter nearest your home.

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Fill out the application completely. Animals are placed in the most suitable homes. You will be notified by telephone or e-mail when a turtle/tortoise is available. There is a waiting list.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
You must be aged 18 years or over to adopt a turtle/tortoise.

For more information visit California Turtle & Tortoise Club online at <<http://www.tortoise.org>>. You will find e-mail contacts for all Club Chapters where any questions you may have can be answered.

Mail the signed, completed form to your closest California Turtle & Tortoise Club Chapter:

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

Include Pictures of Yard, Habitat or Terrarium for the turtle or tortoise that you are interested if you already have a living space set. Also write down on another piece of paper and attach to the application any extra info as for knowledge, experience and other species of turtles and tortoises that you currently have.