

## **Please Only Buy Captive Bred Turtles and Tortoises**

In that we anticipate that our list of recommended suppliers and the number of species available will be forever growing, the contact info is available on our web site: [www.tortoisereserve.org](http://www.tortoisereserve.org)

Some of many of the species available from these private breeders:

### **Tortoises**

African Spurred Tortoise  
Red-footed Tortoise  
Russian Tortoise  
Indian Star Tortoise  
Common Spider Tortoise (three sub species)  
Flat-tailed Spider Tortoise  
Leopard Tortoise (two subspecies)  
Asian Brown Tortoise (2 subspecies)

### **Turtles**

Reeve's Turtle  
Chinese Broad-headed Turtle  
Spotted Pond Turtle  
Chinese Striped-necked Turtle  
East Indian Box Turtle  
Chinese Three-striped Turtle  
Japanese Pond Turtle  
Indian Black Turtle (three subspecies)  
Spotted Turtle  
Wood Turtle  
Various map turtles  
River Cooter  
Florida Red-bellied Turtle  
Florida Cooter  
Various sliders  
Various mud turtles

## **Please Only Buy Captive Bred Turtles and Tortoises**



**A buyer's guide to ethical,  
conservation-minded suppliers  
of turtles and tortoises**



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The Tortoise Reserve  
White Lake, North Carolina

The purpose of this informational leaflet is to provide reliable sources for individuals interested in purchasing turtle and tortoises.

Removing creatures from the wild for profit is one of the worst forms of vandalism; legal or not, it's unethical. Do not support the commercial trade in wildlife by purchasing wild caught turtles. Buy only captive bred turtles and tortoises.

Prior to purchase please consider adoption. There are numerous turtle and tortoise rescue groups throughout the country who have all sorts of species available for adoption. We can place you in contact with them.

### **Why buy captive bred turtles and tortoises?**

Unbelievable numbers of turtles and tortoises are removed from the wild each year for the pet trade. Two thirds of the world's turtles are currently threatened or endangered and for many species their mass exploitation for use as pets has become a major conservation issue.

By purchasing only captive bred turtles and tortoises the buyer is not contributing to the continual decline of these gentle and lovable reptiles.

As a secondary benefit to purchasing captive bred animals from reputable breeders the buyer is assured of acquiring a healthy animal. Wild caught turtles and tortoises often support heavy populations of parasites and various diseases.

### **Some real issues!**

Many dealers are passing off wild caught turtles and tortoises as captive bred individuals, while others being imported from foreign countries are labeled as captive bred when actually they were wild caught or hatched from eggs removed from turtles butchered for food.

Some commercial farms are breeding turtles in mass for the pet trade (in this country mostly sliders and map turtles). The mass-produced turtles become disposable pets, and those that live are often later dumped into aquatic systems and compete and hybridize with native turtles and they can possibly spread exotic diseases into local waters. Consumer support of these operations is ill advised.

Imported turtles, and those farmed in mass, typically are exposed to extended periods of poor and inhumane treatment.

Dealers that supply both wild caught and captive bred turtles and tortoises are not contributing to conservation as profits from sales are frequently rolled over to purchase imported and locally wild caught species.

There are all types of legal issues with wild caught turtles. Different states and countries each have different laws and regulations, which are frequently broken.

Purchasing directly from reputable private breeders removes any questions of doubt regarding the origin or legality of the purchase.

### **The reasons these particular turtle and tortoise breeders are recommended:**

We personally know these private turtle and tortoise breeders to be reliable, honest, and that they sell only species they actually breed themselves. They all live in the United States so import permits are not needed. All sales are legal and none of the people recommended have ever been charged with breaking federal or state wildlife laws.

The turtles they sell and their parent stock are all housed in healthy and humane conditions. They all guarantee the health and condition of individuals sold, know shipping regulations, and pack turtles for shipment so that live arrival is guaranteed.