

Date Received ___/___/___



Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club Adoption Application

P.O. Box 20836
Albuquerque, NM 87154-0836

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State Zip: _____

Daytime Ph: (_____) _____ - _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Type of Residence: Apartment House Townhouse

Email: _____

As with acquiring any pet, it is important to research the specific needs and requirements of the particular species you are interested in before you adopt. This includes diet, housing, cost of veterinary care and other expenses, and adult size and lifespan.

Some basic facts about turtles and tortoises (chelonians): Please read and initial each item.

- 1) They Do Not make good pets for children. They do not like to be picked up and played with. Children must be constantly supervised when in the presence of chelonians. _____
- 2) All pet turtles and tortoises require supplemental feeding, no matter how large, heavily planted, or snail-infested their enclosure is. Unlike wild chelonians, they cannot simply move on if your yard does not contain sufficient food. _____
- 3) They Do Not get along well with dogs and most cats. No dog should be left in the same space as a chelonian without constant supervision. Turtles are not chew toys. _____
- 4) Pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, snail bait, and chemical fertilizers are all poisonous to chelonians and should not be used in or near where they are kept. _____
- 5) Turtles and tortoises are solitary creatures by nature, and do not require companionship of either the same or opposite sex in order to be happy. Multiple chelonians require a proportionately larger yard/enclosure and extra food/water dishes/hides/line-of-sight breaks to minimize conflicts and protect females from the over amorous attentions of the males. _____
- 6) Land turtles and tortoises are not good swimmers and barriers need to be in place to prevent access to a pool or deep pond. _____

- 7) Chelonians live a very long time. Some live over 100 years. They are not disposable pets. _____
- 8) They get sick the same as any other animal. The average Exotics veterinarian charges between \$40 and \$100 per visit plus medications. _____
- 9) Turtles and tortoises are great escape artists. Some are exceptional climbers and some can burrow under a wall in no time flat. You will have a "home visit" prior to placing an animal with you so we may offer suggestions on how to make your yard as escape-proof as possible. _____
- 10) One size does not fit all! Species from different parts of the world, with different care and feeding requirements, and/or of widely differing sizes should never be housed together. _____
- 11) Some chelonians hibernate during the winter and some do not. You must provide adequate accommodations in either case depending on the species of chelonia you adopt. Shelter from the heat of summer, bitter cold of winter and a constant water supply is critical. _____
- 12) You are responsible for knowing your City, State and Federal laws concerning possession of any animal. You may be required to have a license or permit and pay appropriate fees. _____

Number of people in the home under 16 years of age: _____

Do you belong to any reptile clubs? _____

Do you have any turtles or tortoises at the present time? Yes No

If yes, what type? (Please list species, sex and approximate age, and how long you've had it/them):

Have you cared for turtles or tortoises in the past? Yes No

Please describe your experience? Where is the turtle/tortoise now?

Have you adopted a turtle or tortoise in the past? Yes No

Please describe your experience? Where is the turtle/tortoise now?

Where will you keep your new turtle/tortoise?

Inside (*temporary housing only*): Describe the indoor enclosure, substrate, shelter, water, heating and lighting arrangements. _____

Outside: Size of turtle/tortoise yard in square feet _____

Describe your turtle/tortoise yard; include info on ground cover, hiding areas, and walls/fencing:

For aquatic turtles, describe pond or aquarium setup, include size of setup, filtration method, heat sources, basking area, and UV source. _____

Do you have a dog or cat? Yes No If yes, what type: _____

Can you separate your current pets from the turtle/tortoise? Yes No

Does your gate latch securely to keep stray dogs out and turtles/tortoises safely inside? Yes No

If neighbors, meter readers, postman, leave the gate ajar what will keep the turtle/tortoise from walking out?

Please describe what will keep your turtle/tortoise from digging under the fence and getting out of your yard?

Do you have a pool or a pond? Yes No

Please describe how the land turtle/tortoise will be kept out of the pool/pond?

Do you have retaining walls or terraces that the turtle/tortoises can fall off? Yes No

(Terracing is a concern where the surface beneath a high terrace could injure a falling turtle. The response to this question will allow us to educate the applicant and recommend methods to keep the turtle safe.)

Will the tortoise have sunshine, shade and places to hide and burrow available? _____ *(Since turtles and tortoises are cold-blooded and cannot keep warm or cool off by themselves, they must have areas of different temperatures/humidity levels to choose from at all times in order to remain healthy.)*

Describe where your turtle/tortoise will sleep at night:

If your turtle/tortoise is sick, injured or too thin to hibernate, are you willing to keep it inside in temporary housing as long as needed? Yes No

If keeping males and females together, what provisions will you have in place for protecting the females, and for the care and placement of resulting hatchlings? *(Note: if you are uncertain, or unwilling to deal with hatchlings, please consider maintaining a single sex/all-male yard)*

If leaving the home for a vacation, who will care for the turtle/tortoise in your absence?

A Reptile specialist should provide veterinary care. We can provide names of specialists in your area. What is the name and phone number of your current vet? _____

Check the type of turtles/tortoises you are applying for.

- Box Turtle, state species preferred _____
- Water Turtle, state species preferred _____
- Tortoise, state species preferred _____
- Other _____

Age and Gender

- Juvenile
- Adult Male
- Adult Female

By accepting this adoption application Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club is not guaranteeing that a turtle or tortoise will be available for the applicant.

Considering my income and financial obligations, I accept the responsibility of paying for medical care by a reputable reptile vet for the turtle or tortoise I/we are applying for.

(signature(s))

If I can no longer provide care or wish to give up the turtle/tortoise, I understand that I may ask Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club for assistance in re-homing it.

(signature(s))

I have read and understand this application, and by signing it, I agree to all of its terms.

(signature(s))

(date)

Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club

ADOPTION AGREEMENT

I, _____, agree to the following:

(Please read and initial each one)

- 1) I understand that turtles live a very long time and I intend to care for this turtle for the remainder of its life. If I cannot keep this turtle for any reason, I understand that I may ask for RGTTC assistance in re-homing it. ____
- 2) To provide the turtle with proper food, shelter and healthcare. ____
- 3) To take the turtle to a veterinarian for care when it is sick. ____
- 4) To NEVER release this turtle into the wild. ____
- 5) To treat the turtle with kindness and respect, and insist that anyone in my home do the same. ____

If the turtle becomes sick within 30 days of placement, the adopter shall contact the RGTTC, which will then arrange for any necessary veterinary care and/or exchange the turtle for a healthy one. Otherwise, the Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club, its officers, directors, and members are not responsible for any vet bills or other expenses incurred.

The adopter releases Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club of any liability in regard to the health or behavior of the turtle/tortoise adopted. As the adopter you agree not to hold Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club liable for any claims of injury to property or persons or otherwise caused by the turtle/tortoise.

YOU are responsible for knowing your local and state laws regarding turtle ownership.

Your signature: _____

Date: _____