

Tortoise Adoption Checklist

Please make sure you have fulfilled these requirements before applying to adopt a desert tortoise

- Have you familiarized yourself with desert tortoises and their proper care:
- Have you constructed a secure habitat for keeping a desert tortoise?
- Do you have a fenced-in yard that is composed of a mix of self-sustaining grass and desert topsoil? If not, have you created an enclosure with a mix of grass and desert topsoil that will be large enough for a desert tortoise (approximately 325 square feet for an adult tortoise)?
- Have you constructed an appropriate that will insulate your tortoise from the heat and cold?
- Have you taken photos of the following elements of your enclosure?*

 - Enclosure (entire to show ground cover, and perimeter)
 - Shelter
 - Water source (plant saucer)
 - Food source
 - Shade (tree/shrub/constructed)
 - Fence (to show construction material)
 - Security measures (e.g., gates)
 - Any other important feature of the backyard habitat

*please note that photos will not be returned

- Have you made your backyard safe from potential hazards to a desert tortoise, like a pool, toxic chemicals, or an overly interested family dog?
- Are you committed to caring for a desert tortoise for many years, possibly for the rest of your life?
- Have you thought about what will happen if you move away from Arizona or can otherwise no longer care for it?
- Have you considered that you are responsible for the health and well-being of the tortoise, even if it gets sick and requires veterinary treatment?

If you have answered yes to all of the above, proceed to the application!