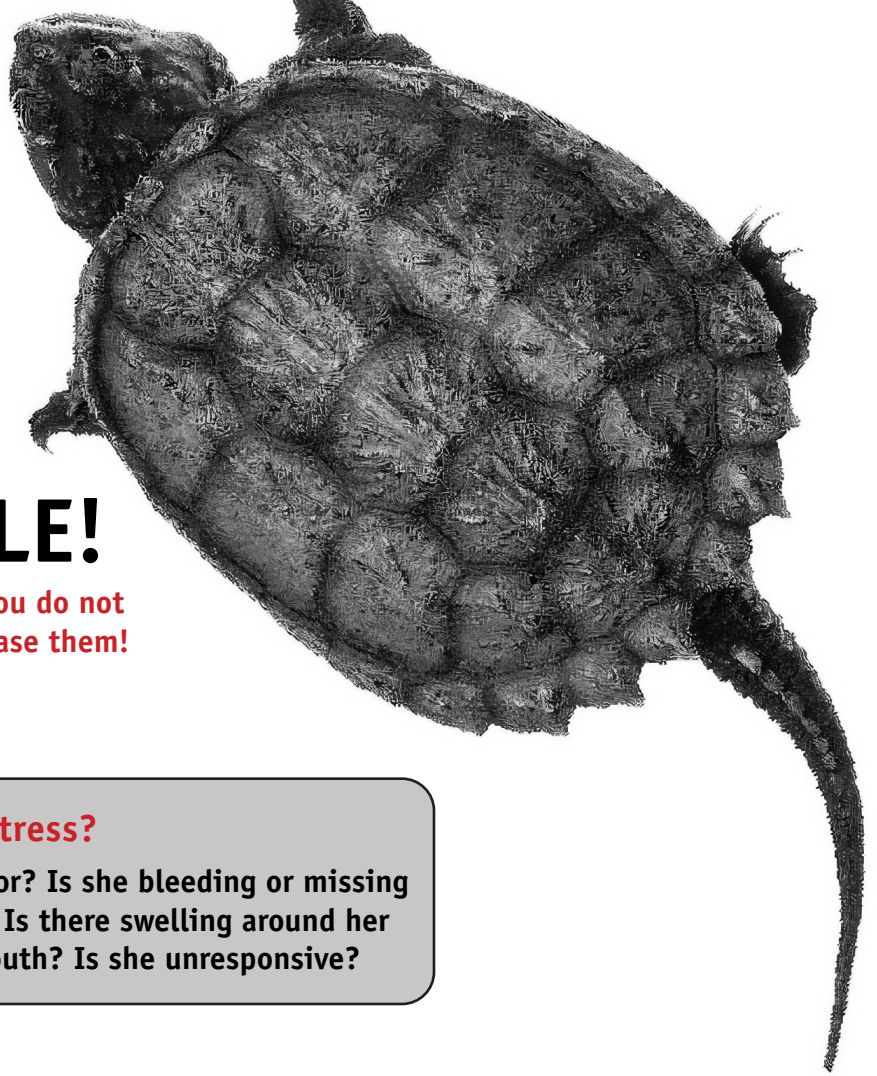




I FOUND A TURTLE!

It is against the law to keep wild animals if you do not have proper permits—even if you plan to release them!



Is the turtle in distress?

Was she hit by a car or attacked by a predator? Is she bleeding or missing a limb, or does she have a fractured shell? Is there swelling around her ears or eyes, or mucus by her nose or mouth? Is she unresponsive?

NO

Is the turtle facing or in the road?

YES

Secure the turtle.*
CALL A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR.

To find a wildlife rehabilitator near you, visit AnimalHelpNow.org (AHNow.org) or use the free Animal Help Now smartphone app.

NO

Is the animal a baby or juvenile?

YES

Turtles often cross roads in spring and summer to nest.

CAREFULLY NUDGE THE TURTLE ACROSS THE ROAD IN THE DIRECTION SHE IS FACING. NEVER PICK A TURTLE UP BY HER TAIL!

*Contain the injured turtle in a box or other secure container to prevent the animal from wandering away, being attacked by a predator or getting struck by vehicles.

Before leaving the location where the turtle was found, write down the exact address or use a smartphone map app to “pin” the exact location found. Rehabilitated turtles must be released in the exact location found. Most turtle species have strong homing instincts and will attempt to find their own way home if not released in the correct location, subjecting them to further harm. In addition, relocating animals can spread disease, making a healthy population sick.

NO

LEAVE THE TURTLE ALONE
Regardless of age, turtles who are not in the road, ill or injured should be left alone.

YES

If in doubt, contact a wildlife rehabilitator.

Removing or destroying tortoise or turtle nests may be illegal depending on state laws and species.

If the nest is in imminent danger and you can't reach a wildlife rehabilitator in time, before moving the eggs:

1. Find a container for the eggs and line the bottom with sand or dirt (natural nest material is best).
2. Leaving the eggs in place, use a pencil to gently mark an X on the top of each egg.
3. One by one, carefully move the eggs to the container without turning or rotating them, using the X as a guide.
4. Carefully cover the eggs with additional nest material.
5. Keep the container safe from predators while you find a wildlife rehabilitator.

Photo courtesy of Kim Titterington



Moving or turning turtle eggs could suffocate the embryos.

I have a pet turtle I do not want anymore.

- Never release your pet into the wild—he will not survive and you risk introducing diseases among native wildlife.
- Search online for pet turtle rescues near you.
- Most wildlife rehabilitators are not able to accept pet turtles.

If you want to know more about Animal Help Now and our volunteer opportunities and projects, check us out at AHNow.org.

