EST 1979
GILCREASE
Nature Sanctuary
LAS VEGAS, NV

GILCREASE
Nature Sanctuary



CONTACT US

ADDRESS
8103 Racel Street
Las Vegas, NV 89131

PHONE
(702) 645-4224

EMAIL
info@gilcrease.community

WEBSITE
www.gilcrease.community

OFFICE HOURS

WEDNESDAY – FRIDAY
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

WEEKEND HOURS
Saturday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

VOLUNTEER

Please check our website for more information.

FOLLOW US

gilcrease.community
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OUR MISSION

At the Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, our mission is to educate individuals about responsible exotic pet ownership. Our goal is that no animal be adopted without thorough research and deep consideration of the lifetime commitment. We care for over 150 rescued residents including parrots, reptiles, pigs, donkeys, emus, and so much more.

PLEASE BE KIND

Our animals are ambassadors for rescue. Some carry physical reminders of neglect, injury, or trauma. We invite you to see beyond those scars and appreciate the incredible journeys that brought them to safety.

ABOUT US

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit sanctuary committed to the care and protection of rescued exotic and farm animals. From birds to barnyard friends, our mission is to provide a safe, loving environment where animals can thrive – and where families can learn, connect and be inspired.

JULY 2026

02 WELCOME!

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary



Before becoming Executive Director, Jennifer volunteered at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary alongside residents like Rico.

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

PROTECTING WHAT MATTERS

There are days when nonprofit work feels easy, and there are days when it feels overwhelming. Through every challenge, one thing remains clear: the animals still need someone to speak for them. They depend on us every day, and that responsibility continues to guide every decision we make at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary.

The animals in our care do not understand budgets, meetings, permits, or deadlines. They simply depend on us to show up every day. They depend on us to provide food, shelter, medical care, enrichment, and a safe place to call home. That responsibility is one I never take lightly.

What continues to inspire me is the way our community steps forward when it matters most. Time and time again, volunteers, donors, staff members, board members, and supporters have rallied around this sanctuary and the animals who call it home. Every act of kindness, whether large or small, reminds me that we are not doing this work alone.

One lesson I have learned is that growth often comes from unexpected places. Some of our most exciting opportunities have arrived through conversations, relationships, and collaborations we never anticipated. While I cannot share all the details yet, I am excited about several new collaborations that are taking shape behind the scenes. These unified efforts have the potential to strengthen our mission, expand our impact, and create new opportunities for conservation and education in our community.

The road forward is rarely a straight line, but I have never been more optimistic about the future of Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary. We have incredible people standing behind us, exciting projects on the horizon, and a shared commitment to protect what matters most.

Thank you for believing in this mission and for helping us give a voice to the animals who cannot speak for themselves. The best chapters of our story are still ahead.

Warmly,

Jennifer Langford
Executive Director

ANALYN BRAZA

Founder of WebKitty

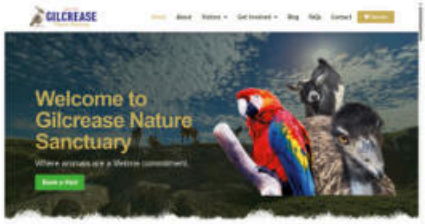
This month, we are proud to recognize Analyn Braza, founder of WebKitty, for her incredible generosity and support of Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary.

Analyn donated her time, creativity, and professional expertise to completely redesign our website, creating a beautiful new online home that better reflects our mission and showcases the incredible animals in our care. Her work will help thousands of visitors learn about conservation, discover our educational programs, sign up to volunteer, and support the sanctuary for years to come.

A website is often the first impression people have of an organization. Thanks to Analyn's thoughtful design and dedication, Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary now has a welcoming, modern website that shares our story with the community in a meaningful way.



Analyn Braza



Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary's newly redesigned website, generously donated by WebKitty.

We are deeply grateful for her generosity and for using her talents to help wildlife, conservation, and our mission thrive.

Thank you, Analyn, for making a lasting difference.

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04 PROTECTORS OF TULE SPRINGS

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

JUL 12

POP-UP SCIENCE: ANIMAL SIGN

Location: Ice Age Fossils State Park **Time:** 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Learn how scientists identify tracks, scat and other clues that reveal which animals have passed through an area. **Entry:** $3 PP

JUL 18

SUMMER NIGHT HIKE

Location: Ice Age Fossils State Park **Time:** 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. Experience Ice Age Fossils State Park after sunset with a guided evening hike through the cooler desert landscape. **Entry:** $3 PP

JUL 25

POP-UP PALEO LAB

Location: Ice Age Fossils State Park **Time:** 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Watch a paleontologist at work and discover how fossils are cleaned, studied, and preserved. **Entry:** $3 PP

JUL 26

DANGER NOODLE DECORATING

Location: Ice Age Fossils State Park **Time:** 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. A family-friendly activity where visitors decorate their own snake-themed craft while learning about Nevada's native reptiles. **Entry:** $3 PP

SUPPORTING LAS VEGAS'S PREHISTORIC STORY: VOLUNTEER WITH PROTECTORS OF TULE SPRINGS

Protectors of Tule Springs is the official non-profit philanthropic partner and "Friends Group" for both Ice Age Fossils State Park (IAFSP) and Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument (TUSK). We are dedicated to supporting both parks by fulfilling their volunteer needs.

If you want to protect local history, explore some of our opportunities below:

- General Volunteering Assist with park operations and specialized projects.
- "I'm a Protector" Program: Become our eyes and ears on trails by reporting park concerns during your regular visits.
- Public Outreach: Represent at community events and engagement booths.
- Specialized Skills: Share your talents in digital marketing, social media curation, or grant/fundraising campaigns.

We are currently accepting applications for new Board Members. Help guide our mission of protecting, preserving, supporting and promoting responsible stewardship.

- To volunteer or Apply for the Board: Visit our official website at protectorsoftulesprings.org.
- To Learn More About the Parks: Explore the official agency websites at parks.nv.gov/parks/ice-age-fossils and nps.gov/tusk.



Photo by Dev Basudev, lifetime member of Protectors of Tule Springs. Used with permission.

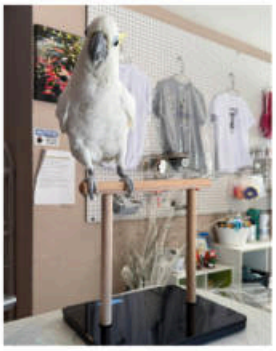
MEET SHUSHU

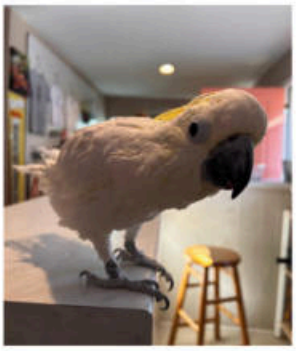
FROM A DIFFICULT BEGINNING TO A LIFE SURROUNDED BY LOVE, SHUSHU REMINDS US WHY EVERY RESCUE MATTERS

ShuShu's story spans decades and continents. She was transported from Indonesia in 1990, long before many of today's protections for wild parrots were in place. Today, she has found a safe, permanent home at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, where she receives the care, enrichment, and compassion every rescued animal deserves.

Because of the trauma she experienced early in life, ShuShu is susceptible to seizures and receives specialized care and careful monitoring from our dedicated animal care team.

Her favorite treats are snap peas and cashews (**always given in moderation**), and she loves spending quiet time with her favorite caretakers.





Monthly weigh-ins help our team monitor ShuShu's health and well-being.

Parrots are among the most intelligent birds in the world and can live for many decades. Unfortunately, many outlive their original owners or require specialized care that families may not be prepared to provide. That's why sanctuaries like ours are so important, they provide lifelong homes for rescued parrots where they can live safely and thrive.

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06 SANCTUARY SMARTIES

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

Shell-ebrate Desert Tortoises!



Down:

1. The special title a Nevadan receives when they adopt and care for a desert tortoise.
2. The beautiful, bright pink or red desert flower that tortoises absolutely love to eat as a healthy treat.
3. Tortoises don't have teeth! Instead, they use this sharp, horn-like mouth part to clip tough desert plants.
5. One way the Tortoise Group helps desert tortoises find safe homes.
7. The hard, rocky armor that protects a tortoise from predators and the hot desert sun.
9. The shape a tortoise shell grows into when a tortoise receives an improper diet.

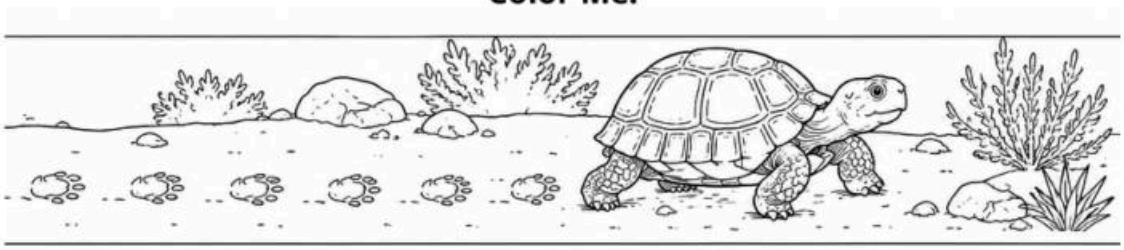
Across:

4. The special organ a desert tortoise uses to store water for long periods during dry desert conditions.
6. The deep underground home a tortoise digs with its strong claws to stay cool in the summer heat.
8. The type of animal a tortoise is (hint: they are cold-blooded, have scales, and lay eggs!)
10. The name of the famous, sun-baked desert that our native tortoises call home.

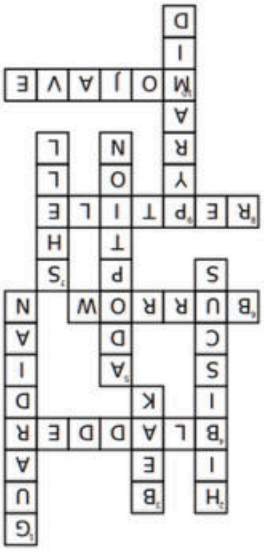
FUN FACTS!

- **Desert tortoises can live 50-80 years.**
- **They spend 95% of their lives in burrows.**
- **Their bladder can store water for long periods.**
- **A desert tortoise is Nevada's state reptile.**
- **They can drink water through their nose like a straw, using special nasal flaps to keep water out of their lungs.**
- **Hibiscus flowers are a favorite treat for many captive desert tortoises.**
- **An improper diet can cause a tortoise shell to grow into a pyramid.**
- **The Tortoise Group helps with adoption, education, and conservation.**
- **Desert tortoises are considered a keystone species because their burrows help many other desert animals.**

Color Me!

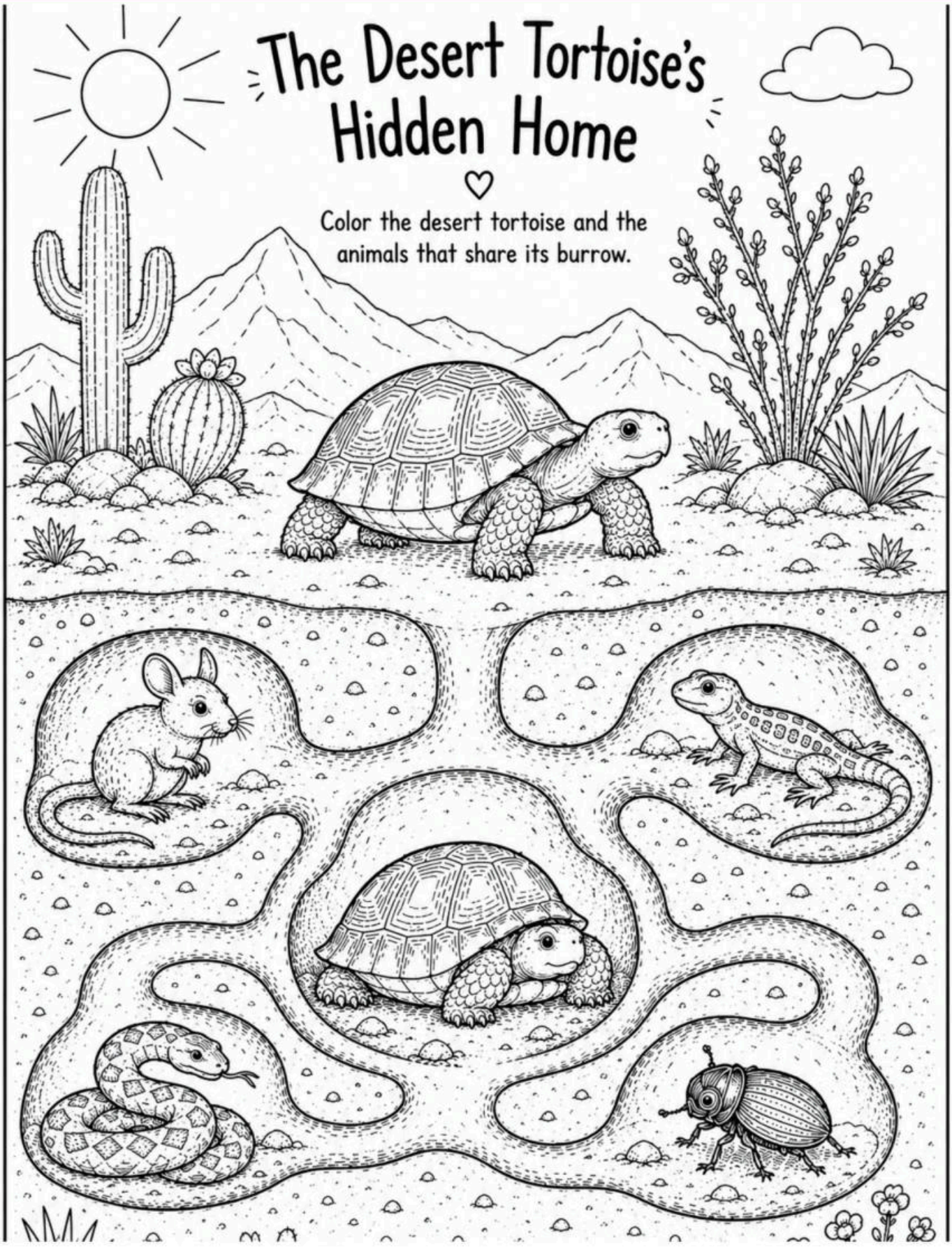


ANSWER KEY!



MINI CONSERVATION TIP

Desert tortoises need safe homes to survive. Stay on marked trails when hiking and never take a wild tortoise home as a pet. It you see a desert tortoise in the wild, give it space and let it continue its important work as a desert architect!



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MOJAVE DESERT TORTOISE ON PAGE 10.

FROM TUCSON WITH LOVE

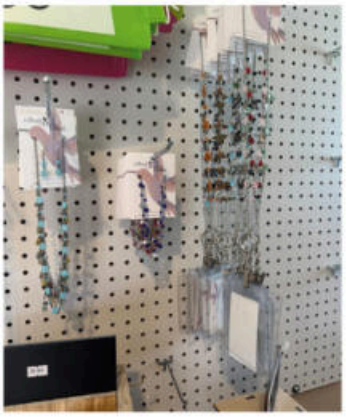
HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY AND A HEARTFELT COMMITMENT TO HELPING ANIMALS

Support of the sanctuary comes in many different forms, and sometimes it travels hundreds of miles to reach us.

Barbara Zaner of Tucson, Arizona, uses her creativity and talent to handcraft beautiful jewelry that she donates to Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary. She carefully mails her creations to us, where they are sold in our gift shop to help support the animals in our care.

Barbara's generosity reminds us that making a difference does not require living nearby. Whether it's volunteering, donating, sharing a special skill, or creating something by hand, every contribution helps further our mission.

Thank you, Barbara, for sharing your talent and proving that a labor of love truly knows no distance.





Proceeds from our gift shop are used to support animal enrichment at the sanctuary. Enrichment encourages natural behaviors, provides mental stimulation, and helps the overall wellbeing of the animals in our care. Every purchase helps us provide toys, treats, puzzles, and other enrichment opportunities that keep our residents active, engaged, and thriving.

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BEYOND ADOPTION: HOW THE TORTOISE GROUP PROTECTS NEVADA'S DESERT TORTOISES

When many people hear about the Tortoise Group, they immediately think of desert tortoise adoptions. While helping captive tortoises find safe and responsible homes is an important part of their work, adoption is only one piece of a much larger conservation mission.

For more than four decades, the Tortoise Group has been dedicated to protecting Nevada's desert tortoises through education, conservation, research, and community involvement. Their work reaches far beyond backyard habitats and into the Mojave Desert itself.

The desert tortoise is Nevada's official state reptile and a federally threatened species. Wild populations face many challenges, including habitat loss, vehicle strikes, disease, and the fragmentation of desert landscapes. The Tortoise Group helps address these challenges by supporting citizen science projects, working with conservation partners, and engaging volunteers in efforts that benefit wild tortoise populations and their habitat.

Education is another cornerstone of their mission. The organization provides resources for schools, community groups, and tortoise custodians, helping people better understand the unique needs of these remarkable reptiles. Through outreach programs and public events, they inspire Nevadans to become stewards of the desert environment.

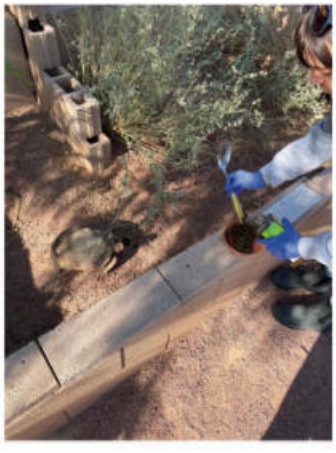
TORTOISE GROUP

The Tortoise Group also supports the thousands of captive desert tortoises living in Southern Nevada. Their adoption program helps place displaced tortoises into suitable homes while promoting responsible care and preventing the release of captive animals into the wild. Wellness checks, habitat consultants, and educational materials help ensure these animals receive the care they need throughout their long lives.

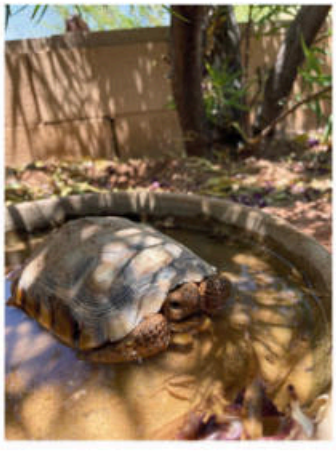
Perhaps most importantly, the organization creates opportunities for people to become directly involved in conservation. Through volunteer programs, internships, and citizen science initiatives, community members can contribute to protecting one of Nevada's most iconic species.

The next time you hear about the Tortoise Group, remember that they are much more than an adoption organization. They are educators, conservationists, advocates, and partners working every day to ensure that desert tortoises continue to thrive in both the wild and in responsible human care.

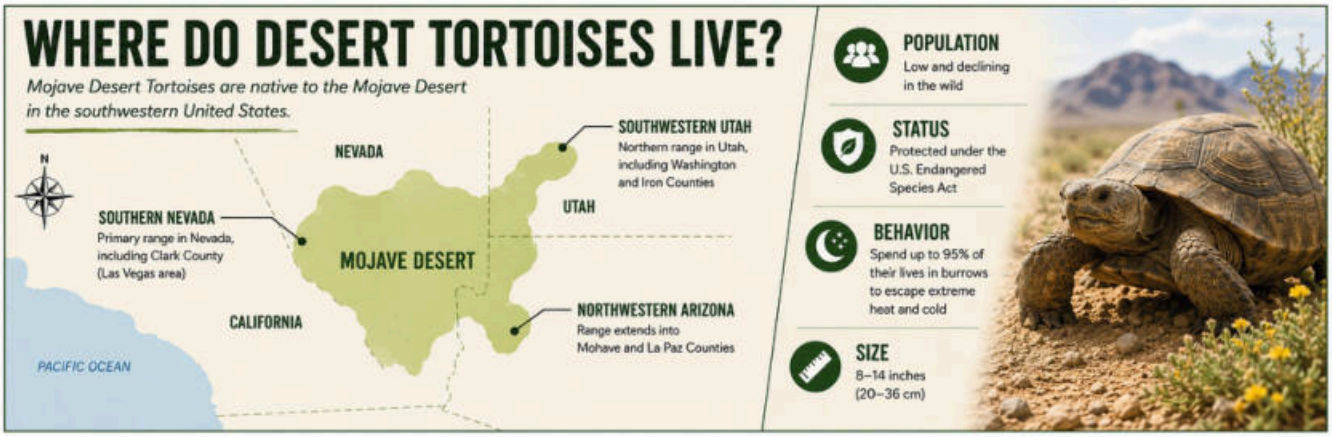
To learn more about the Tortoise Group and ways to support their mission, visit their website or explore volunteer opportunities throughout the year.







To donate to the Tortoise Group, scan the code.



LOOK, DON'T TOUCH – PROTECT WILD TORTOISES

Seeing a desert tortoise in the wild is a special experience. These remarkable reptiles have survived in the harsh Mojave Desert for millions of years by adapting to one of the driest environments in North America. While it may be tempting to pick one up for a closer look or move it "to safety," the kindest thing you can do is admire it from a distance and let it continue its journey.

Desert tortoises are perfectly adapted to life in the desert. They spend much of the year in underground burrows, escaping the intense summer heat and cold of winter. When rain finally arrives, they drink as much as they can, storing water in a specialized bladder. That stored water can sustain them for weeks or even months between rainstorms.

When a tortoise is frightened or is handled, it may release the water stored in its bladder. While this is a natural defense mechanism, it comes at a high cost. In an environment where rain is scarce, losing that precious water can leave the tortoise dehydrated and vulnerable, especially during long dry periods.

Wild tortoises also know where to find food, shelter, and mates within their home range. Moving one, even a short distance, can disorient it and make it difficult to survive. If you encounter a desert tortoise crossing the road, the safest option is to carefully move it only a short distance in the direction it was already traveling. Otherwise, simply observe from a respectful distance and allow nature to take its course.

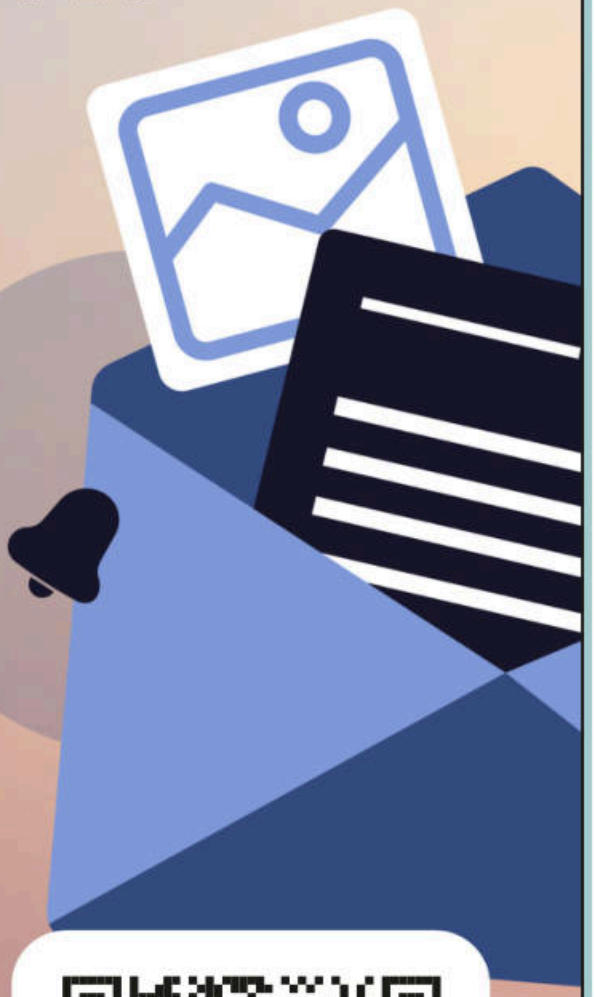


Photo courtesy of the Tortoise Group. Used with permission.

Every wild tortoise plays an important role in the Mojave Desert ecosystem. By leaving them where they belong, we're helping protect one of Nevada's most iconic native species for generations to come. Your respect and awareness are the greatest gifts you can give to our local wildlife.

Never miss our publication!

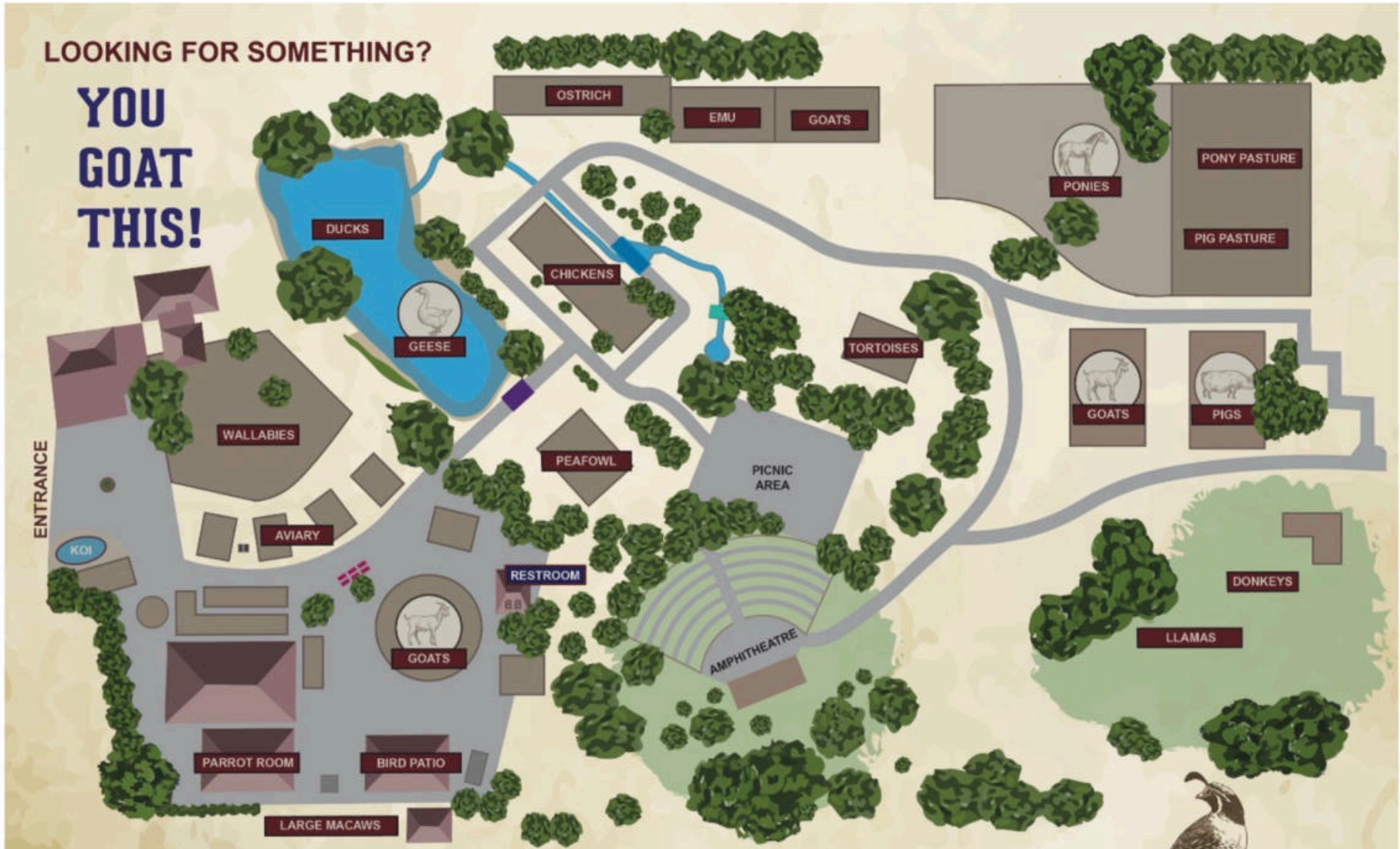
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LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

YOU GOAT THIS!





The historical seven acre property offers a serene home retreat for over 500 exotic birds and domestic animals that have found a refuge when their owners can no longer take care of them.

Sanctuary management and staff are dedicated to the continued awareness of responisble pet adoption. Through onsite classes on animal wellness, presentations, and tours of the facility, citizens are encouraged and taught the serious responsibility of pet ownership.

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