

DESERT TORTOISE HANDLING SUPPLIES

Burrow Investigation and Construction

- Thermometer (to measure air and ground temperatures)
- Watch or clock (to record start and finish processing times)
- Measuring tape (for burrow dimensions)
- Compass (for burrow orientation)
- Hand held mirror (for viewing inside burrow)
- Leather or cloth gloves (to avoid animal stings and/or bites)
- Blunt-nosed shovel(s) (for constructing a burrow)
- Garden trowel (for constructing a burrow)
- 1" x 2" plank (to insert in small burrows)
- 2" x 4" plank (to insert in larger burrows)
- 4' x 8' x 1/4" thick plywood (for artificial burrow construction)
- Hand saw (to cut plywood into appropriate size and shape)
- Surveyor's tape (for marking a burrow)

Tortoise handling and marking

- Toothbrush, sterilized (for cleaning dirt from scute to be numbered)
- Acrylic paint or typewriter correction fluid (for making dot to number tortoise)
- Waterproof, capillary pen (for numbering the tortoise and keeping notes)
- 1/2" masking tape (to cover growth areas prior to applying epoxy)
- Epoxy, toothpicks, wooden coffee stirrer, tongue depressors (to cover the number on the scute and to apply the epoxy)
- Plastic, ziplock bags (weighing juvenile tortoises)
- Hand lens (for observing parasites)
- 95% ethyl or isopropyl alcohol, or 25% chlorine solution (for sterilizing equipment)
- Rubber/plastic container and lid (for soaking instruments)
- New, disposable cardboard boxes (for holding and/or transporting tortoises)

Tortoise measurements and photography

- Pillow case, cotton string (to weigh the tortoise)
- Calipers (for measuring carapace length, width, and height)
- Metal or plastic rule (to measure plastron length)
- 100 g, 1.0 kg, and 5.0 kg tubular spring scale (to weigh small and large tortoises)
- 3" x 5" file cards (for mixing epoxy and identifying photographic slides)
- Avery labels or other stickers (to attach to tortoise to identify photograph)
- Digital camera (for taking photographs)

Egg handling

- Felt-tipped pen (for marking eggs)
- Bucket (for transporting eggs)