

HOW AND WHEN TO HELP TURTLES



ASSESS THE SITUATION

Is the turtle in a hazardous situation such as **on a road**? Has the turtle been **recently injured**? If the answer to either of these questions is no then it is likely the turtle does not need help. Of course every situation is unique. Learn more below about how to help turtles in different scenarios.



TURTLE HATCHLINGS

With a built in sense for where they should go, it is **not often** that a hatchling will need our help. If they seem **lethargic, dehydrated, or very very far** (km's) from water you can help by **assisting them to the waters edge** of the closest body of water, let them go into the water on their own.

NEVER HOLD A TURTLE FOR LONGER THAN NECESSARY



WALKING ADULT TURTLES

Turtles come on land for many reasons and if they are not on a road/trail or other hazardous location then moving them is NOT helpful. When moving a turtle from a hazardous location **always move it in the direction it was headed**. You should not take it to the closest water, instead bring them past the hazard and place them in a natural area near by. Learn how to move a turtle on our website.



WALKING ADULT TURTLES CONTINUED



When a turtle doesn't need your help **please keep your distance**. If you feel you must take a closer look or a photo, approach from behind, be quiet, and stay for a short amount of time. **Keep all animals (e.g. dogs) away**.

NESTING TURTLES ARE EASILY UNNERVED BY HUMANS, YOUR PRESENCE MAY RESULT IN HER ABANDONING NESTING



NESTING TURTLES

Stay **more than 5 m away** from a nesting turtle so as not to disturb them. It can take a turtle up to an hour to finish nesting. If you have the time, stay and wait for the female turtle to leave. When she has finished **watch to make sure she doesn't start crossing a road** - help her if needed. Once she has left you can **protect the nest** with a nest protector box. Details can be found on our website.



INJURED TURTLES

You can bring an injured turtle to a local wildlife rehabilitation centre or one of the vets in our trauma program. Be aware that many turtles have old injuries, new injuries typically have some blood. **Place the turtle in a well-ventilated plastic container with a secure lid**. Do not offer food or water. Always note the location you found the turtle so it can be returned to its home.

