



Turtle time is a long time

Think carefully before choosing one as a pet

Photo: Brent Myers CC-BY-2.0

Did you know that red-eared slider turtles can live for up to 50 years?

These pets start out small but can grow to the size of a dinner plate. They need a large, heated aquarium or secure outdoor pond to thrive.

Think carefully before you decide to get a pet turtle - turtle time is a long time.



Rehoming your turtle

If you're struggling to look after your pet turtle, don't dump it in the wild. Contact your local SPCA or turtle rescue centre for help.

Impact on the environment

Red-eared slider turtles are pests in the wild. When they escape or are dumped into waterways, turtles harm our native fish, plants and birds, and damage the environment.

Turtles are omnivorous. In the wild they can eat leafy plants, insects, native fish, kōura, ducklings and small birds - whatever is around.



Learn more about

- red-eared slider turtles
- how to keep our environment safe
- report a turtle you see in the wild

Visit www.doc.govt.nz/turtles