

Black Pine Animal Sanctuary

Animal Facts

Breed: RED-FOOTED TORTOISE

Names / Sex / Age:

Footloose Male 12

Previous Home: Private home.

Native to: Extreme southern Central America, and central and northern South America, as well as Trinidad. Introduced into the West Indies.

Size: 10 to 14 inches on average. Up to 20 pounds.

Life Expectancy: 40-50 years.

Status: Protected - Listed in Index II of CITES

Diet: Dark green leafy plants, fruits, vegetables, carrion (in the wild).

Facts:

- Mature males have longer, wider tails than females
- Named for the red spots on the legs and feet
- Largest threat is the overhunting of man; during holy week they are consumed in huge numbers; they are hunted and shipped to many different South American cities, sold as a delicacy
- Tortoises do not swim, they sink
- All tortoises are turtles, but not all turtles are tortoises
- Tortoises like to climb

Personal History:

Footloose was originally acquired to sell in a local pet store. The store's policy, however, prevented them from selling the animal because he was not "perfect". A malformed back leg meant he could not be sold. An employee at the store offered to adopt the animal and kept him for about five years.

As Footloose grew he became too large for the owner to continue to care for him. Black Pine agreed to adopt him upon the completion of the new reptile house in 2008.