



### **Desert Tortoise Conservation Center**

- Desert tortoise hotline and pick-up
  - Weigh, measure, test, and treat

### **Translocating Tortoises**

- Translocation → the transport and release of an animal from one area to another!
- Radio tagging tortoises
- Releasing tortoises
- Tracking tortoises

- Water storage
  - Desert Tortoises can store up to \_\_\_\_\_ of their body weight in their \_\_\_\_\_!
  - Desert Tortoises can go \_\_\_\_\_ access to \_\_\_\_\_ for up to **one year!**

### What's the Problem?

- \*\*Emergency listed in 1989 as a \_\_\_\_\_ species
  - Habitat loss
  - Human issues
  - Predators
  - Disease
- Habitat loss
  - Natural habitat being taken over by \_\_\_\_\_ structures
- Human issues
  - ATV and vehicular losses
  - Desert trash and pollution
  - Off leash pets
  - Pet trade
- Disease
  - Upper Respiratory Disease (URDS)
    - Caused by a bacteria, *Mycoplasma agassizii*
    - \_\_\_\_\_ in some wild populations of tortoises
    - Transmitted via \_\_\_\_\_ contact or \_\_\_\_\_ contact
      - The symptoms
        - Wheezing
        - Nasal discharge
        - Ocular discharge
        - Lethargy
        - Dehydration
        - Conjunctivitis
        - Emaciation
    - Disease in captivity, spreads by contact

### Recovery Efforts

In cooperation with federal and state agencies, researchers at the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center in Las Vegas, NV are working to repopulate wild desert tortoise populations in the Mojave Desert.

# The Mojave Desert Tortoise

**\*\*The largest reptile living in the Mojave Desert\*\***

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: Reptilia

Order: \_\_\_\_\_

## Habitat Range

- ***Gopherus agassizii*** → Desert tortoise
- Mojave desert tortoises live in California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona
- \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ **habitat** is found in California
- \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ population has \_\_\_\_\_ in **30 years**

## Desert Ecosystem

- What is an ecosystem
  - Places where \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ live, interacting with \_\_\_\_\_ things around them
- What are some examples of the \_\_\_\_\_ parts of an ecosystem?
  - \_\_\_\_\_, air, water, temperature, \_\_\_\_\_

## Why are Desert Tortoises so Important in a Desert Ecosystem

- \_\_\_\_\_ SPECIES → a species that plays a \_\_\_\_\_ role in \_\_\_\_\_ the structure of an ecological community and whose impact on the community is greater than would be expected based on its relative abundance or total \_\_\_\_\_
  - BURROWS
    - Provide \_\_\_\_\_ from predators and harsh weather for many desert dwellers
      - \_\_\_\_\_ of lifetime is spent \_\_\_\_\_ in a burrow
  - Seed Dispersal
    - \_\_\_\_\_ the desert ecosystem by depositing the seeds of the plants they eat

## Cool Adaptations

- Large, overlapping \_\_\_\_\_ provide protection and flattened forelimbs with long, sturdy \_\_\_\_\_ are great for digging burrows
- \_\_\_\_\_ hind feet, great for traveling over rough, uneven terrain