

Checklist

Please make sure you have fulfilled these requirements before applying to adopt a desert tortoise

- Have you familiarized yourself with desert tortoises and their proper care?
- Have you constructed a secure habitat for keeping a desert tortoise?
___ If you rent your home, have you received permission to construct a burrow and care for a tortoise?

___ Do you have a fenced-in yard that is comprised of a mix of self-sustaining grass and desert topsoil? If not, have you created an enclosure with a mix of grass and desert topsoil that will be large enough for a desert tortoise (18'x18' for an adult tortoise)?

___ Have you constructed a burrow that will insulate your tortoise from the heat and cold (covered with at least 8" of dirt on the top, sides, and back)?

___ Have you taken photos of the following elements of your enclosure?*

- Enclosure (entire to show ground cover, and perimeter)
- Burrow
- Water dish
- Food source
- Shade (tree/shrub/constructed)
- Fence (to show construction material)
- Security measures (gates, locks)
- Any other important feature of the backyard habitat

*please note that photos will not be returned

___ Have you made your backyard safe from potential hazards to a desert tortoise, like a pool, toxic chemicals, or the family dog?

- Are you committed to caring for a desert tortoise for many years, possibly for the rest of your life?

___ Have you thought about what will happen if you move away from Arizona or can otherwise no longer care for it?

___ Have you considered that you are responsible for the health and well-being of the tortoise, even if it gets sick and requires veterinary treatment?

If you have answered yes to all of the above, proceed to the application!