



FAQ's

Mojave Desert Tortoise Aging Study

What will be done to my tortoise if it is part of the study?

As part of the study, each tortoise will be weighed, measured and photographed. Then, a few drops of blood will be drawn from the tortoise by an experienced tortoise biologist. All tortoises in the study will also be given a FREE health assessment.

Where will I need to bring my tortoise for the study?

Each tortoise will only need to be seen once for the study. Several events will be scheduled throughout the summer of 2025. You will need to bring your tortoise to one of these events.

What if I am unable to transport my tortoise?

If you are unable to transport your tortoise to one of the planned events, and your tortoise is deemed crucial to the research, other arrangements may be made by researchers.

Why is this research being done?

Biologists are developing a method to determine the age of wild desert tortoises. They are doing this by studying the DNA of pet/captive tortoises whose age is already known.

Who is doing this research?

The Clark County Desert Conservation Program is partnering with USGS (U.S. Geological Survey) on this research.