

DID YOU KNOW?

FRESHWATER TURTLES

MOST OF THE TURTLES IN NIWRA'S POND ARE RED-EARED SLIDERS WHO USED TO BE PETS.

As pets, turtles require large tanks, frequent cleaning, special filters, UVB lamps, dry basking areas, calcium supplements & chlorine neutralizing conditioner.

That is a lot of work!

They also grow as big as a dinner plate and live 40 years.

Their diet consists of aquatic vegetation, soft fruits and berries when available, insects, slugs, snails, and minnows. Because they do not produce saliva, they must eat in water.

Red eared sliders are among the 100 most invasive species in the world competing with native turtles for food and habitat.

In winter, turtles 'burmate', digging into the mud at the bottom of ponds slowing their metabolism down to almost nothing. During mild sunny winter days, they can wake up.

Red eared sliders are semi-aquatic. They spend most of their lives in water, coming on land to lay eggs or bask in the sun, which supplies them with essential vitamin D.

Turtles grow by shedding old 'scutes' (scales) from their shells so new, larger scutes can grow from beneath.



TURTLES DO NOT MAKE GOOD PETS
PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH TURTLES – THEY BITE AND CARRY SALMONELLA