

PANCAKE TORTOISE

DISTRIBUTION



Pictured is this baby hatching on 21st November 2009. He has two older brothers now living with the parents housed just around the corner.



The pancake tortoise may at times appear to be stuck in a gap or crevice in the rock - don't worry, it's not! The shell is very soft and flexible so that it yields under pressure, enabling it to squeeze into crevices at times of danger, it is for this reason that it is sometimes also known as the crevice tortoise.



Their unusual shape, size and appearance makes them very desirable pets.

Malacochersus tornieri

FACTS & FIGURES

Where found	North East Tanzania, Southern Kenya
Habitat	Tropical grassland
Diet	Herbivores, feed mostly on grass and fallen fruits
Average length	15cm
Number of eggs	1 (up to 4 times a year)
Incubation	120-190 days
Lifespan	Up to 30 years



The biggest threat to the survival of the pancake tortoise in the wild is the pet trade.

Left: Tortoises and turtles shown here for sale in a Chinese market.

VULNERABLE