

## **Volunteers needed for upcoming 2017 Captive Desert Tortoise Clinics**

### **Volunteers needed:**

- 1) Veterinarians and veterinary technicians who can assist with pre-op & post-op care.
- 2) Biologists who have experience with handling desert tortoises and conducting basic health screenings (body condition, observing & recording clinical signs of disease, weighing & measuring, and microchip implantation).
- 3) Biologists who would like to get more experience with handling desert tortoises and observing/assisting with health screenings & microchipping. You would be partnered at a station with an experienced biologist as described above. It's a great opportunity to gain more hands-on experience with desert tortoises.
- 4) Non-biologists are needed to help with other clinic logistics & activities, and assisting biologists/veterinarians as needed. Non-biologists who volunteered at clinics last year were able to assist with numerous tasks such as pre-op prep scrubbing of tortoises, cleaning bins, holding tortoises for the vets & biologists during exams, bringing tortoises to & from surgery, post-op manual resuscitation, assisting Tortoise Group volunteers with various tasks, assisting with weighing & measuring, and recording observations on data sheets for the biologists & vets conducting exams.

## **Clinic Dates and Descriptions**

### **2017 Captive Desert Tortoise Health Screening/Microchipping Clinics**

**Friday, May 12, 3:00-6:00 pm:** Set up for Health Screening/Microchipping Clinic

**Saturday, May 13, 9:00-3:00 pm:** Health Screening/Microchipping Clinic (Orientation @ 9am, clinic begins at 10 am).

**Friday, September 22, 3:00-6:00 pm:** Set up for Health Screening/Microchipping Clinic

**Saturday, September 23, 9:00-3:00 pm:** Health Screening/Microchipping Clinic (Orientation @ 9am, clinic begins at 10 am)

### **2017 Desert Tortoise Sterilization Clinic**

**Sunday and Monday, August 27 & 28, 10:00 am-3:00 pm,** Tortoise check-in, health status screening to determine eligibility for surgery & identify tortoises with eggs and or uroliths, or in need of pre-op antibiotic therapy. Tortoises are weighed & measured, assigned to bins with their individual health records. Will need help with cleaning & prepping bins for tortoises.

**Monday, August 28:** Need help with soaking tortoises for hydration and cleaning bins in the morning. During the afternoon we will need volunteers to assist vets, vet techs, & biologists with pre-op health assessments & triage.

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**Tuesday & Wednesday, August 29 & 30:** Surgery days, assistance needed with scrubbing tortoises prior to surgery, transporting tortoises from the barn area to the surgery suite, post-op manual resuscitation of tortoises until recovered from anesthesia, post-op microchipping & scute notching, running supplies and equipment as needed.

**Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> through Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>:** Tortoise Group volunteers will have the primary responsibility for post-op daily care of tortoises, such as feedings, cleaning bins, assisting vets & vet techs with administering medications, recording observations of bowel movements, urination, amount of food eaten. Tortoise Group volunteers will also be responsible for recording & notifying vets & vet techs of any potential signs of post-op complications such as bleeding, persistent lethargy, lack of bowl movements or urination, decreased or no appetite. However, if you would like to assist with this care, let me know and we can coordinate with the Tortoise Group Lead Volunteer Coordinator to find a time slot for you help them out with these daily tasks.

We also need volunteer vets and vet techs during this time to assist with post-op care and treatment of tortoises.