



Species Fact Sheet



REPTILES <http://www.peoriazoo.org/reptiles.html>

South American Red Footed Tortoise

Geochelone carbonaria

Peoria Zoo Exhibit **Historic Entry Building**

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/exhibits.html>

Habitat: Primarily humid forest dwellers but also found in some grasslands

Range: South American and southern central America from northern Argentina to southern Panama. They are also found on some islands of the Caribbean.

Activity Cycle: Diurnal– active during the day

Size: 10-16 inches in carapace length with males being slightly larger than females

Social Structure: Nomadic.
As the rainy season approaches, breeding normally occurs. Males will seek out other tortoises. They will swing and jerk their head, if they don't get a response then it is probably a female.

Distinguishing Features: Red-footed tortoises have red scales on the limbs. Color on the head can range from yellow to orange. When they are mature, their shell has a distinct curving inward, giving them a well-defined waist.

Diet: Vegetable and fruits, especially dark green leafy vegetables and occasionally carrion.

Life Span: 40-50 years

Did you know?

Males will fight over females, trying to overturn each other.