



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

## Pancake Tortoise

*Malacochersus tornieri*

**Peoria Zoo Exhibit** **Africa!** Small Animal Building  
<http://www.peoriazoo.org/africa.html>

**Habitat:** Arid scrub savannah in altitudes from 100-6000 feet.  
Found in kopje rock formations

**Range:** Southern Kenya and Northern and Eastern Tanzania

**Activity Cycle:** Active mostly in the early morning

**Size:** The shell is about 6-7 inches long and about an inch high

**Social Structure:** Live in isolated colonies on kopje rocks.  
Non-aggressive except during mating season when males may fight

**Distinguishing Features:** They have flexible shells that allow them to fit into rock crevices.  
Spiky legs are used to lock themselves into crevices.  
Males have longer and thicker tails than females

**Diet:** Herbivore-feeds mainly on grass and fallen fruit

**Life Span:** Can live up to 25 years

### ***Did you know?***

***A pancake tortoise has such a flexible shell that it moves in and out as the animal breathes. Their shell is lighter than other tortoises, allowing them to move quicker.***