

## Colorado Reptile Humane Society's Habitat Requirements: Outdoor Pens for Box Turtles



- pen must be predator-proof as appropriate to your area (dog, raccoon, fox, skunk, coyote, etc.)
- fencing must be opaque, at least 18” high, and buried at least 4” in substrate
- in Colorado, nighttime low temperatures should be at least 45F by May 15th and turtles should be able to live outdoors for at least 5 months of the year
- minimum size for one or two turtles/small tortoises: **100 sq. ft.**; Three: 120 sq. ft.
- recessed water dish accessible from all sides for entry and exit
- artificial or natural hides (one for each turtle plus one additional)
- brush pile for burrowing
- live vegetation
- CoRHS recommendations: Spiderwort(*Tradescantia ssp.*),strawberry, squash, sunflower, dandelion, globe mallow, bindweed, grasses
- for a list of toxic plants to avoid, please see the California Turtle & Tortoise Club's list of poisonous plants:[www.tortoise.org/general/poisonp.html](http://www.tortoise.org/general/poisonp.html)
- areas of shade and areas of morning sun
- males should not outnumber females