

Don't take him home
Let box turtles stay wild



Box Turtles Are In Trouble

Their numbers are dwindling, in part because many people pick them up to take home as pets. It may be just one here and one there, but the result is thousands of box turtles disappearing from our forests and fields, forever.

They Need To Stay Wild

As far as nature is concerned, a turtle taken from the wild is “dead.” It can no longer help maintain the population. “Saving” a turtle by bringing it home in fact hurts fragile turtle populations. Taken from the wild, box turtles often sicken and die. When captive turtles are released into unfamiliar surroundings, they are often killed by predators or crushed by cars as they attempt to return to their original wild home.

An Easy Way To Help

If you see a turtle crossing the road, move it to the side that it is headed. Resist the urge to drive it to a “safer” place. Remember, that box turtle may have been living in the area for decades, and has learned where to find food, mates, and a place to hibernate.

Find Out More

Learn how you and your children can help wild turtles, plus other reptiles and amphibians at:

www.parcplace.org



Photo: Eastern Box Turtle © Mike Jones