

PERMIT STATEMENT PERTAINING TO HIGH TEMPERATURES FOR HANDLING DESERT TORTOISES

During all handling procedures, desert tortoises shall be treated in a manner to ensure that they do not overheat or exhibit signs of overheating (e.g., gaping, foaming at the mouth, etc.), or are placed in a situation where they cannot maintain surface and core temperatures necessary to their well-being. Desert tortoises shall be kept shaded at all times until it is safe to release them. For the purposes of this permit, ambient air temperature shall be measured in the shade, protected from wind, at a height of 5 centimeters above the ground surface.

For all activities: No desert tortoise shall be captured, moved, transported, released, or purposefully caused to leave its burrow for whatever reason when the ambient air temperature is above 95oF (35oC). No desert tortoise shall be captured if the ambient air temperature is anticipated to exceed 95o F (35o C) before handling or processing can be completed. If the ambient air temperature exceeds 95o F (35o C) during handling or processing, desert tortoises shall be kept shaded in an environment that does not exceed 95o F (35o C), and not released until ambient air temperature declines to below 95oF (35oC).