

TURTLES IN TROUBLES



During your diving or snorkeling trips you may spot marine turtles displaying unusual behaviours or visible wounds.

What should you look at and what should you do if that happens?

how to tell?

Observe the turtle:

- Do you see EVIDENT WOUNDS or TUMORS?



- Is the carapace CLEAN?



- How is the SHAPE of the PLASTRON?

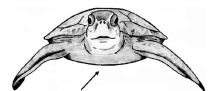
Concave: POOR body condition



Flat: FAIR body condition



Convex: GOOD body condition



- Look at the NECK and EYE area!



Thomson, Jordan & Burkholder, Derek & Heithaus, Michael & Dill, Larry. (2009). Validation of a Rapid Visual-Assessment Technique for Categorizing the Body Condition of Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Field. *Copeia*. 2009. 251-255. 10.1643/CE-07-227.

what to do?

Do not touch, observe the turtle for 10-15 minutes (to make sure the animal is actually in distress), try to record its behavior/photograph any injury and report it to us!

IMPORTANT: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TAKE THE TURTLE OUT OF THE WATER!!!

If the turtle was taken out of the water for any reason, make sure it was placed in a right side up position! It should be out of the sun and kept moist.

what to know?

Due to the absence of a rehabilitation centre, moving an injured turtle out of the sea is useless and it could harm the animal further.

We will be monitoring the animal with your help and the support of specialised veterinaries we are in touch with.

Remember! marine turtles are able to recover from injuries extraordinarily well in their NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

Report a turtle in distress:



www.turtlewatchegypt.net



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TURTLEWATCH^{2.0}
EGYPT

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