

## **Can a turtle shed it's shell like a hermit crab? NO!**

The turtle shell is made of the backbone and ribs fused together, then covered with a layer of keratin (like fingernails). So, if the shell breaks, that's bone that's breaking. A badly broken shell can result in permanent disability and even death. If you see a wild turtle that has been injured, please contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator to care for it.

## **Do Turtles Shed? Yes and No**

Turtles can shed pieces of their skin, but it doesn't come off all at once like a snake. Some aquatic turtles, like painteds, sliders, and redbellies, will shed the thin layer of keratin over each section of shell (called a "scute"), but tortoises and box turtles do not shed scutes.



This painted turtle just shed a scute.