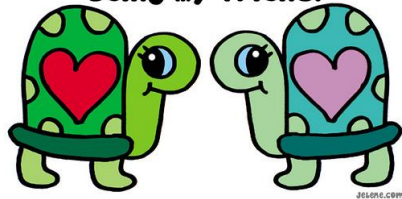


How to Help a Turtle Cross the Road

DON'T SQUASH TURTLES!

1. Stay safe! Don't run into traffic.
2. Move the turtle to the side of the road that it is FACING.
3. Handle the turtle gently, grabbing in on both sides of the shell and set it down gently off the road.
4. If it's a snapper, throw a towel or blanket over its head and shell, then grab BOTH sides of the shell in the middle and carry him/her to the side of the road.
5. DON'T drop a turtle. The shell could break and get infected.

**Thank you for
being my friend!**



All turtles are turtles, but within that family of animal you will hear of different kinds called box turtles, tortoises, terrapins, and sea turtles.

Turtles and tortoises around the world are endangered, threatened, and are losing their homes and their lives every day due to human neglect and willful abuse. Turtles and tortoises were on earth long before humans evolved. Only a very few species bite humans. They are not genetically programmed to be aggressive to other animals and they are vulnerable to many abuses.

If you want to help keep turtles and tortoises safe, tell people to stop abusing them. Don't let people take them from the wild even for a few days, safely help them across roads in the direction they were headed, and speak respectfully about these wonderful creatures.

Turtles are a part of many culture's myths, legends and understanding of the world. They are revered for their long life, and quiet, steady pace through time.

Turtles are reptiles. They have been on the earth for over 200 million years. There are about 300 species of turtles. They live on every continent except Antarctica.

The shell of a turtle is part of its skeleton. Not all turtle's shells are hard, some are soft. Some turtles have hinges on their shells and can close them up partially or close to all the way once their head and legs are pulled in.

Some kinds of turtles can live over 100 years. Many cannot produce offspring until they are 10 years old or even older. They are amazing and beautiful creatures.

Some tortoises can dig burrows 45 feet long. Turtles have good eye sight, a strong sense of smell, excellent hearing, and a sense of touch. Their shells have nerve endings and so they have feelings in their shells.

Water turtles can only eat while in water, they cannot eat on land. Land tortoises cannot swim, but they need water and will soak in shallow pools. Turtles have beaks for eating. The first turtles had teeth, but none do today.

Turtles are susceptible to disease when stressed from being handled, change of environment, availability of food, and seasonal changes. Many turtles sold in pet stores are caught from the wild and many end up dead or sick because people do not know how to care for them. Turtles are not disposable pets or something to play with. Turtles are wonderful creatures that have been on earth far longer than humans and are a vital part of our natural world.

My Marquette County Turtle Checklist



Blandings Turtle...note the yellow chin



Eastern Musk Turtle



Painted Turtle

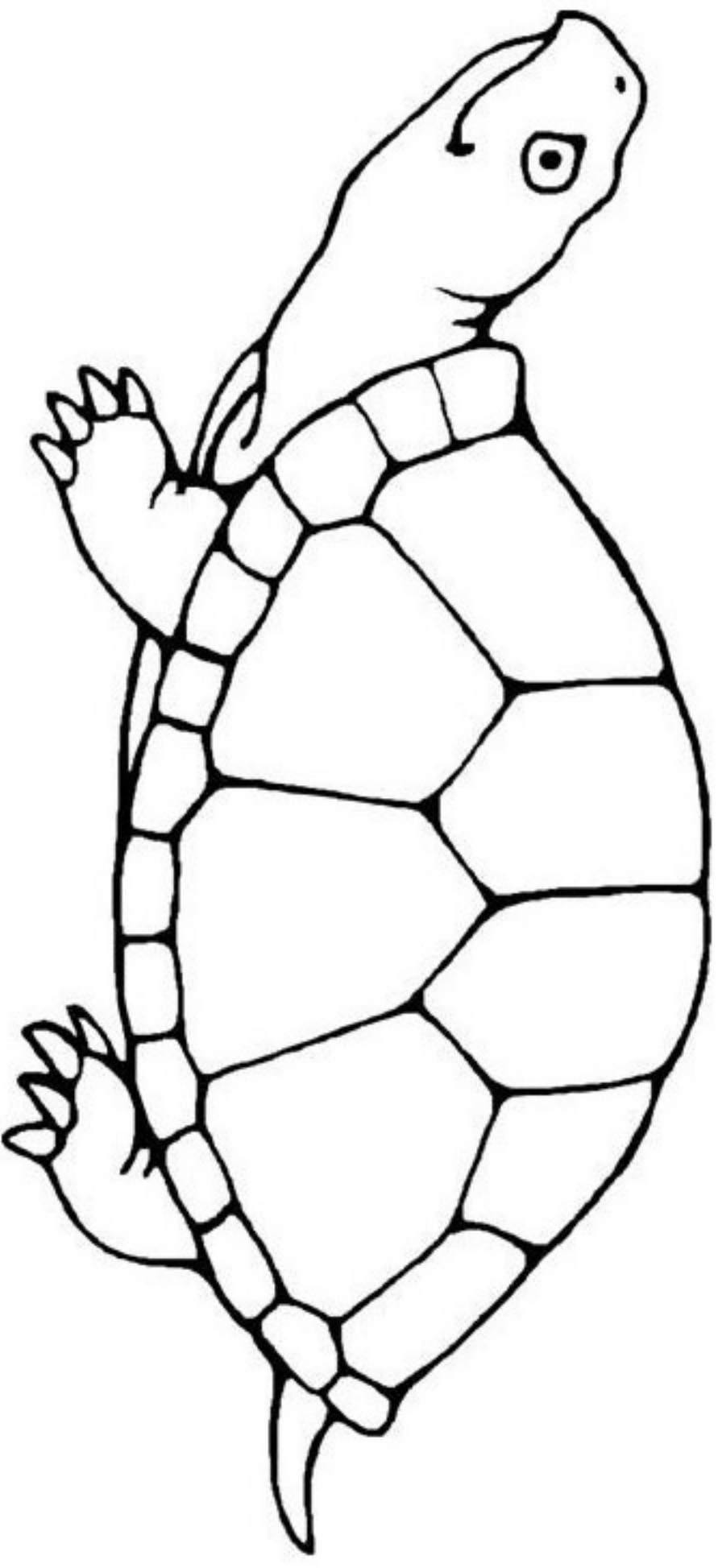


Snapping Turtle



Spiny Softshell Turtle

Color this turtle happy because people like you care about him.



Please be kind to turtles