

The Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre works to protect and conserve Ontario's native turtles and the habitat in which they live

Turtle Handling 101

Do:

- Use both hands, positioned firmly at the sides of the turtle
 - For snapping turtles, position hands at **rear** of shell. For larger snapping turtles, position one hand at the rear of the shell and the other underneath the turtle
- Expect the turtle to hiss and/or scratch your hands
- Always be aware of the turtle's head

Do not:

- Tap on the shell, or knock it
- Pick up a turtle that you are not comfortable holding
- **Never** pick a turtle up by its tail

Examples:

Most Ontario Turtles:



Snapping Turtles:



How to help a turtle cross the road:

- Be aware of cars, do not attempt to help a turtle if it is not safe to do so
- Always move the turtle in the direction it was going/is facing
- Use a floor mat or shovel if you are uncomfortable or unable to lift the turtle
- Demonstration: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lgd_B6iKPxU



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