

Does my tortoise need a buddy?

Tortoises are solitary creatures. They do not want or need buddies. In the wild they come into contact to mate or compete for mates. In domestic situations exceptions exist. Read below.

Housing adult males together: **NEVER**

- Males are in constant competition for dominance and mating rights – even if a female is not around
- Forced cohabitation results in fights, injuries, stress and possible death for the weaker tortoise

Housing adult male(s)/female(s) together: **NEVER**

- Males will harass the females with detrimental results
- Forced cohabitation results in stress, egg binding, shell injuries and possible death for the female



Injuries received from two males fighting.

Housing adult females together: **MAYBE (with an exit plan)**

- Females of some species can be more mellow and less dominant
- However, some females are as aggressive as males
- If females get along for a few years there is **NO** guarantee they will get along forever



Injuries received from another hatchling.

Housing young tortoises together: **MAYBE (with an exit plan)**

- Young tortoises tend to tolerate group cohabitation if the pen is large enough
- As hormones develop, conflict begins
- Young tortoises can still bully each other

What is an exit plan?

- If you decide to get more than one tortoise and end up with a fighting/bullying situation they **MUST** be separated
- You **MUST** be able to provide a separate pen for the rest of their lives
- If two pens cannot be accommodated from the date two tortoises are cohabitated, it is recommend to only obtain one tortoise

NEVER leave a tortoise in a stressful and/or dangerous situation.