

NORFOLK & COE TORTOISE CLUB - AUGUST 2007 **NEWSLETTER**

All meetings will be held at St Francis Church Hall, Rider Haggard Road, Heartsease, Norwich on 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Our July meeting was held on 18th July & one of our members brought along a fully grown leopard tortoise who was wide awake & entertained us by walking around the room for the entire meeting whilst his owner gave us some facts about keeping them & demonstrating with the aid of two young ones how people can easily buy a baby without realising the size of the eventual adult, also bearing in mind that they have to be kept awake at high temperatures during our winter. We were also able to handle a euromastix lizard, a very friendly royal python & there was the opportunity to get close to a beautiful very large albino Burmese python.

Next Meeting August 15th at 8.00pm.

We have the Wildflower People from Burlingham coming along to give us a talk & bring samples of seeds etc for sale – these will include many of the plants that tortoises can eat ie: vetches, clovers, dandelions etc.

September 19th Meeting : at 8.00pm. Our speaker will be Glyn Fairweather who works at Colchester Zoo & is a specialist in the keeping of Hingeback Tortoises & may also be able to bring along a few samples of 'preserved' tortoise shells from the Zoo's collection.

The October 17th Meeting : at 8.00pm.

This will be a meeting to discuss hibernation – you can bring your tortoise along especially if you have any concerns about weight, health etc as it is important that the tortoise is healthy before being put into hibernation.

The Club had a stand at the Royal Norfolk Show in June & those of us who were able to help enjoyed a very successful day meeting tortoise owners from all over the region some of whom decided they would like to receive a newsletter to keep in contact with our local group.

All the tortoise enthusiasts were very friendly & the time passed very quickly. Dillon took along one of his Sulcata tortoises who behaved very well & created a lot of interest & gave us the opportunity to inform people to be careful when buying baby tortoises to ensure they get the correct species especially if they did not have room for a large one!

Marion brought some babies along which were also very popular & We had one very well behaved adult spur thigh on display.

The range of good & bad foods proved a very good educational talking point & we hope lots of tortoises will now benefit from a more healthy diet.

On Sunday 15th some members met at Linton Zoo where we had an interesting day looking at the collection of Sulcata & Aldabran giant tortoises. We had a short lecture about the Shellshock Campaign for the protection of tortoises & turtles. The weather was good & everyone had a very enjoyable day.

Should you wish to receive our newsletter quarterly the cost will be £5 per annum to cover postage etc., please contact Daphne on 01603 435273, Lynne 01603 438050 or Marion on 01603 783877.

Should you have any queries or need any advice, please ring the above & if we cannot help we will direct you to somebody who can.

Information is always available on the web site www.tortoiseclub.org but if you do not have access to a computer & would like newsletter or care sheets etc., please contact us.