Red-Eared Sliders

Did you find a red-eared slider outside?

Please leave red-eared sliders found outdoors alone, unless they appear to be ill or injured. Even though red-eared sliders are not native wildlife, if you find them, they should stay put. They cannot be returned to the wild, and it is difficult to find them appropriate homes. If you want a pet red-eared slider, adopt one instead of taking one from the wild or purchasing from a pet store.

Note: If a red-eared slider you find outside is ill or injured, contact animal control for that jurisdiction.

Do you have a pet red-eared slider you can no longer care for?

Please try to rehome your turtle with a friend or contact your local shelter or reptile rescue organization. It is illegal to abandon a pet — this includes the release of a turtle in California state waterways.

Do you have a pond home?

We need pond homes at hotels, golf courses or other private properties for red-eared sliders. When owners of pet turtles aren’t able to care for their animals and relinquish them to us, we do not have ideal housing for red-eared sliders, so we need pond homes ready to take them. Please email rescue@sdhumane.org to join our list of available pond homes.