



## Pancake Tortoise

### *Malacochersus tornieri*

**Description:** It is no question why they are named the “pancake” tortoise- they are a small, very flattened, tortoise that uses its flattened state to its advantage. Its shell is flexible and is even known as the soft shelled tortoise in some countries.



**Habitat:** They dwell in rocky hills, outcrops, and the arid scrub in the savannah.

**Range:** Pancake tortoises are found in Northern and Eastern Tanzania and Southern Kenya.



**Life Span:** 60 years

**Natural Diet:** In the wild they are herbivores, feeding only on plant material, such as grasses and fallen fruits.

**Zoo Diet:** Chopped vegetables, fruits, greens, and alfalfa hay.

**Behavior:** Pancakes are very good climbers and will climb up into crevices where they can wedge themselves into a tight area and even inflate their shell to make it very difficult to get out. This offers great protection against predators that might try to pry it out. Because of its flat shell, when flipped over it is easier for them to right themselves.



**Reproduction:** A female will lay 1 or 2 times a year with clutches of 1-4 eggs at a time and bury them for incubation. They will hatch after about 120 days. When hatched the babies are only about 1 1/2 inch long.