



## Leopard Tortoise *Geochelone pardalis*

**Description:** The leopard tortoise gets its name from the unique patterns on its carapace that resemble leopard spots. They are one of the largest mainland tortoises and their shells can reach up to 2 feet in diameter.

**Habitat:** They are found in a variety of habitats, mostly grasslands and shrubs.

**Range:** Southern and eastern Africa.

**Life Span:** 75 years in captivity.

**Natural Diet:** Grasses, succulents, and fallen fruits.

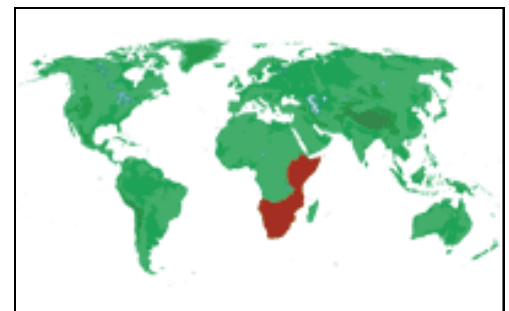
**Zoo Diet:** Chopped vegetables, fruit, and greens.



**Behavior:** These tortoises are fairly inactive during the day due to the extreme heat of their natural habitat. They will spend their days foraging, basking, and sheltering in the brush.

**Reproduction:** Males will compete for females during the breeding season by butting up against one another until one is flipped onto his back. After mating, the female will bury a clutch of up to 30 eggs in a nest where they will hatch 18 months later.

**Conservation:** Least concern.



**Z**Amarillo  
**ZOO**