



## Video transcript

### Turtle handling

So, now we're going to handle our turtle. There are times when you do need to handle them. They're not an animal that we handle a lot like other reptiles, we like to put snakes on us. Turtles tend to be happier when they're in the water. So, we are going to need to handle them at times for a vet check or we just might want to see how they're going, feel their shells or we might need to clean the tank because we've fed too much and our filter just can't do the job. So, probably the easiest way to get them is just by gently coming in, grabbing behind them. And when I grab these little guys I have two fingers on the bottom and I put one finger on top. I'm holding them with just enough force for him to sit in my hand. I'm not squeezing. We have to be careful because if you're not checking your turtle regularly and we grab it, they could have a soft shell so we could squash them. So, just by holding them back like that, bringing them forward. I always like to keep my other hand underneath as well just in case he jumps out of my hand. So, sometimes they grow long nails and it's not uncommon for them to scratch you and you can drop them because they get you unaware, they scratch and you let go. The bigger the turtle is there's more chance they'll try and kick off. You can see now he's trying to ... they try to flick you away with their little legs. And they are quite strong. So, I always use two hands. And if I am handling them and I have other people having a look I tend to make everyone sit down on the ground and keep the turtle quite low to the ground because even though they do have a hard shell if they do fall and hit the ground we can crack them and that becomes a whole another issue we have to get the vets to check them. So, that's just one thing. And turtles are not slow. Unlike the hare and the tortoise story that we always refer to turtles being slow, turtles are not slow, they can move quite quickly and can move quite unpredictably. So, if when in doubt, two hands just to be safe. And then if you want to stick him back in you just put your hand in and just let him swim off. They're quite happy to just go about their business. In when handling them you handle them a bit rough, these Long-necked Turtles can emit a musky odour. So, they'll get a bit stressed and they'll squirt a really smelly liquid on your hands and that's to help save them in the wild if say a dog or an animal grabbed them, they'd emit this musk and it stinks and you drop them. So, just to be aware that if you're rough handling your turtle or you don't handle them a lot, it's not uncommon for them to musk you and it can be quite smelly and your hands smell. So, if you ever see a turtle run across the road and you pick him up, he's going to get you.