



Video transcript

Turtle health

As turtles grow just like all reptiles, they do shed their skin and their shell but they never shed their shell as one big piece, so they never lose the shell and grow a new one. Their shell grows with them and the scutes, which is the outside part of a shell or the carapace as we call it, they will slowly lift off. So, as the turtle gets bigger they just stay small and slowly just peel off. So, if you have a turtle out of the water for quite a while and he dries out you may notice flaking on the shell. You maybe noticing the scutes lifting off and that's just the turtle growing and just peeling like our skin. And it's best never to peel them off because you can damage the scute underneath. So, if you notice it just let the turtle do his thing. And a very common thing that we see with our turtles is that when they're swimming around and you may see like a spider webbing or slime coming off their legs and it normally happens in the first few months of getting him or her and our alarm bells ring, we get a bit worried thinking our turtle's got a fungus growing on it. And what it is turtles do shed their skin as well. So, it will slowly just slough off their legs but it can look a little bit like a fungus or a bit of a slime coming off them, so there's no need to panic, it's just your turtle growing. And normally when you get the turtle for the first time, probably within a month you're going to feed it a lot more than it was previously getting at its existing house and it will just start to grow and it will start to shed. You'll notice the shell starts getting marks on top as well and it's just his shell growing, so it's nothing to be alarmed about. Some of the main things that also we do need to worry about is if our shell does get soft then we do need to make sure that he's getting the right amount of calcium in his food. So, we want to give him whole bodied items. So, when we feed him things like prawns and fish we don't shell the prawn, we leave the shells on the prawn, we just remove the head so it doesn't spike them. And you should have happy days. If we feed them things like crickets we dust the crickets with the calcium powder just so that the turtles can get extra calcium in their diet and that will help keep their shells nice and firm. Another common thing that can happen to your turtle is they can get respiratory problems which will need vet interaction. And sometimes you might notice your turtle just floating listlessly around the top of the tank and that can because especially in the Winter months if your heater breaks, you're not checking your water temperature regularly, your basking lamps have stopped working and you haven't got around to changing them that can lead to your animal getting some respiratory problem. And especially if the water's really cold and we keep feeding them they can get upset stomachs and the food can rot in their belly. So, it's important to keep an eye on as a daily check, water temperature and check your lights just to ensure that the basics are working fine for our animal. I always recommend that if you're not sure about what's happening with your turtle, get a vet to check it.