Of the four species of tortoises found in North America, the Texas Tortoise is the only one found in Texas.

The Texas Tortoise can be found throughout Southern Texas as well as Northeastern Mexico.

Unfortunately there are many threats to the survival of the Texas Tortoise:

- Habitat Loss
- Illegal Collection
- Roadside Mortalities
- Predation
- Exotic Pathogens

For more information on the Texas Tortoise, contact:
- TPWD: 800-792-1112
  http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/
- Gulf Coast Turtle and Tortoise Society:
  866-994-2887
  http://www.gctts.org/

If you find a Texas Tortoise (out of habitat), contact:
- TPWD Law Enforcement
- Permitted rehabbers in your area
  http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/rehab/

Everything you need to know about the state’s only native tortoise & the threats it faces

Texas Tortoise
Gopherus berlandieri

Unfourtanly there are many threats to the survival of the Texas Tortoise:
THE TEXAS TORTOISE (Gopherus berlandieri) is the smallest of the North American tortoises, reaching a shell length of about 8½ inches (22cm). The Texas tortoise can be distinguished from other turtles found in Texas by its cylindrical and columnar hind legs and by the yellow-orange scutes (plates) on its carapace (upper shell).

THE TEXAS TORTOISE IS THE SMALLEST OF THE NORTH AMERICAN TORTOISES

COUNTIES WHERE TEXAS TORTOISE CAN BE FOUND


THE TEXAS TORTOISE IS LISTED AS A THREATENED SPECIES IN THE STATE OF TEXAS AND THEREFORE IS PROTECTED BY STATE LAW. IT IS ILLEGAL TO COLLECT, POSSESS, OR HARM A TEXAS TORTOISE. PENALTIES CAN INCLUDE PAYING A FINE OF $273.50 PER TORTOISE.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU FIND A TEXAS TORTOISE?

IN THE WILD
LEAVE IT ALONE.

IN THE CITY
CONTACT TPWD OR A LOCAL REHAB OR ADOPTION CENTER.

ON THE ROAD
IT IS OKAY TO MOVE A TORTOISE ACROSS THE ROAD TO SAFETY BUT DO NOT MOVE IT LONG DISTANCES. DO NOT RISK INJURING YOURSELF OR THE TORTOISE.