

# Is processed tortoise food nutritionally complete?

## What is processed tortoise food?

- Made in a factory
- Additives, dyes, preservatives and chemicals added to extend shelf life and appeal to the customer
- Sold in the mass-pet market in stores, online, etc.



*Processed tortoise food is given shapes and colors not found in natural diets.*

## The top ingredients of 5 major brands of tortoise food:

- Soybean hulls
- Corn
- Oats
- Wheat middlings
- Suncured alfalfa meal
- Whole ground wheat



*Examples of processed tortoise food available in the pet industry.*

## *Is this nutritionally complete for any species of tortoise?*

Processed tortoise food is marketed for all species. It's cheap, easy and profitable. Tortoises are nomadic and eat a wide range of foods in their natural diet. The Eastern Box turtle eats animal matter, vegetables, greens, fruits and fungi. The Russian forages on leafy greens and grasses. Where do the above grains fit into any tortoise diet? They don't.



*A hatchling Greek Ibero enjoying a Dandelion flower. Part of a natural, fresh, varied diet.*

## Conclusions:

- Tortoises are very new to domestication (most sold by the pet industry are wild-caught)
- Not enough scientific basis or information to understand how to replace a wild tortoise diet with processed food
- Processed foods are nutritionally inadequate and potentially harmful

**Provide a fresh, varied, natural diet. Your tortoise will thank you!**