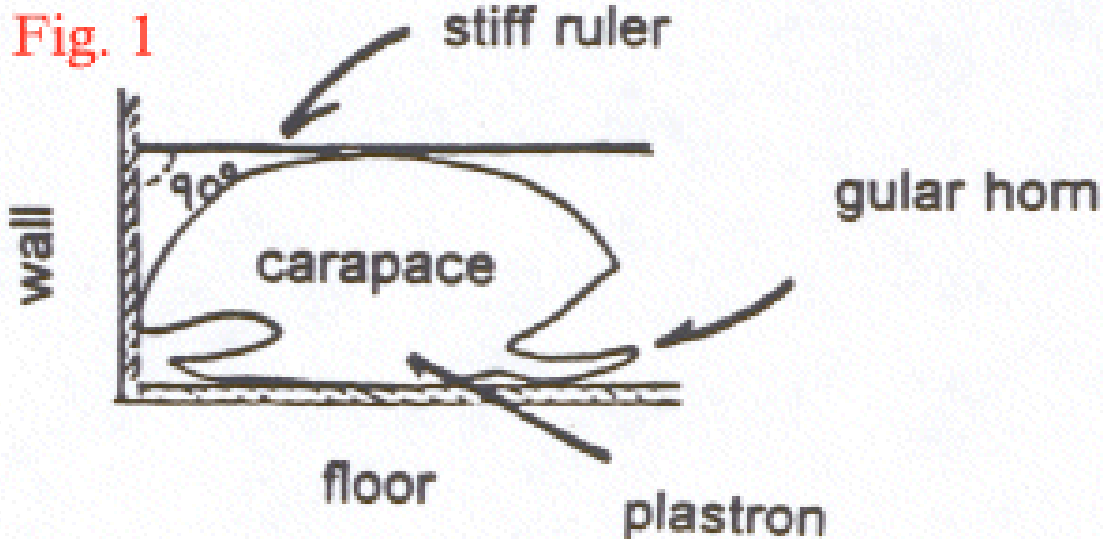


How to Measure Your Tortoise

The most accurate measurement can be done with calipers. Otherwise, use a stiff ruler.

- 1) Place the rear end of the tortoise against a wall without molding as shown in Figure 1.



- 2) Lay the ruler along the length of the shell, in the mid-line, making sure that both the back of the carapace and the “low” end of the ruler are touching the wall squarely.
- 3) Look directly down at the middle of the front edge of the small scute (scale) that is in the center of the front edge of the shell.
- 4) Sight straight down (at right angles to) where the appropriate marking on the ruler is over that place on the scute. See Figure 2.

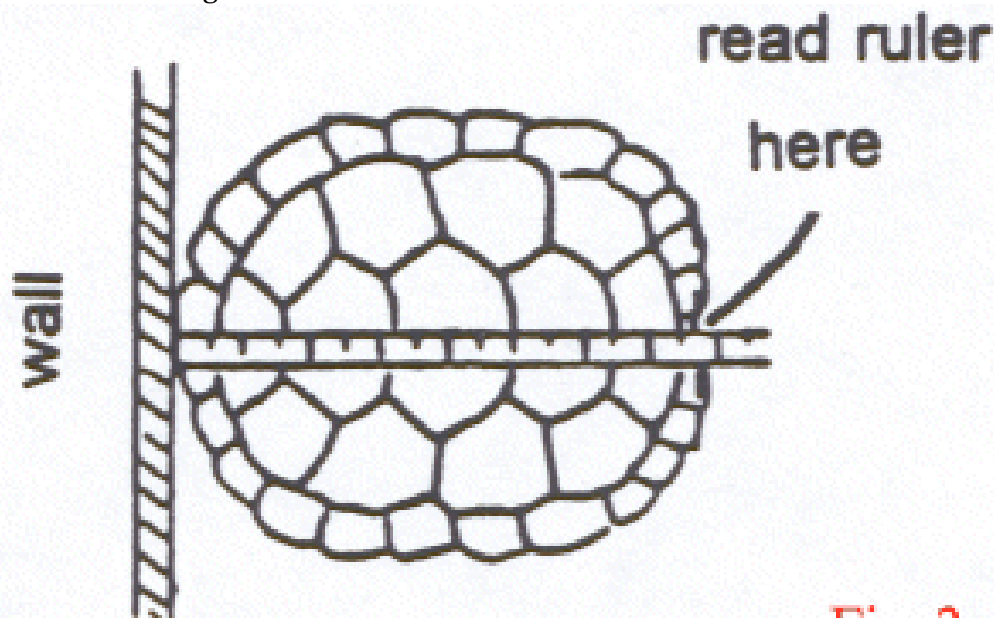


Fig. 2

- 5) As you grasp the ruler at the free end, place your thumb nail on the measurement and hold it there while you lift the ruler to read the length.

How to Weigh Your Tortoise

The most accurate measurement can be done with calipers. Otherwise, use a stiff ruler.

- 1) Find a suitable cylindrical holding stand like a coffee can or bucket. The stand should be large enough to support the desert tortoise and small enough to prevent any waving appendages from touching the stand, and tall enough to prevent desert tortoise from touching a solid surface below.
- 2) Weigh the stand without the tortoise
- 3) Place tortoise on top of a cylindrical holding stand and get total weight. Their plastron sits on the stand, while their legs hang off, so they can't move around; just keep a close eye on it so they don't fall off.
- 4) Subtract the stand's weight from the total weight to determine tortoise's weight

NOTE: Freedom to move its appendages may encourage your desert tortoise to extend its head, which allows observation of the eyes, nares, chin glands, and beak where most signs of URTD are observed.