

## **RVC Exotics Service**

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## **TORTOISE HIBERNATION**

Hibernation is a natural part of many tortoises

## TYPES OF HIBERNATION

defecation. If this does not occur then a visit to the vet is required so the tortoise can be rehydrated and further investigations performed as required.

Keep the animal warm with supplementary heating, until the days get sufficiently warm for the tortoise to go outside in the daytime.

Feed succulent foods initially before weaning back to a normal diet

Once out of hibernation and eating, keep it active (as for overwintering) if the weather becomes cold again. Warm spells in February breaking hibernation are a hazard of the British climate. Any tortoise that is not eating or has not urinated within seven days of emergence from hibernation, or if it appears ill, should be taken to a veterinary surgeon without delay.

## WHAT IF MY TORTOISE DOESN'T HIBERNATE?

Any tortoise which is underweight or suffering from an ailment should not be hibernated, but overwintered in indoor accommodation

