

IT'S TERRAPIN NESTING SEASON!

BE READY!

Diamondback terrapins are turtles that live in coastal marshes. During the summer, nesting females are moms on a mission! They leave the marsh to seek a spot to lay their eggs.

Terrapins need ground that is above the high tide line, so their nests don't flood. Many times the only places they can find are roadsides and yards.



Photo credit @what.sue.seas

The search for nesting habitat is perilous. Hundreds of terrapins are hit by cars each season, killing both the mother and the eggs inside her. But you can help!

DRIVING SLOWLY IS ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO HELP!

BUT WHAT DO I DO IF I FIND A ... ?

Terrapin Crossing the Road? Safely help her cross in the direction she is going. Pick her up gently (not by the tail) because she may have eggs. Do not relocate a terrapin, since they have small home ranges and become confused when moved.

Injured Terrapin? Place her gently in a box. Contact the Stockton Vivarium, LBT Field Station, Stafford Animal Control, or a licensed rehabilitator from this list: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/rehab-list.pdf>

Dead Terrapin with Intact Eggs? Place her gently in a box and contact the Wetlands Inst. or Project Terrapin. They may be able to incubate the eggs.

Terrapin in my Yard? Leave her alone and watch from a distance. She could stop nesting if approached.

For more ways to help terrapins, contact:

Atlantic & Cape May Counties

- Stockton University Vivarium (609) 652-4581
- Margate Terrapin Rescue Project margateterrapinrescue.org
- Wetlands Institute wetlandsinstitute.org, (609) 368-1211

Ocean County

- Project Terrapin projectterrapin.org, (732) 814-6644
- Long Beach Twp. Field Station www.lbtfieldstation.com
- The Terrapin Nesting Project terrapinnestingproject.org
- Stafford Animal Control M-F until 4:30PM (609) 597-1000 ext. 8525, weekends/after hours (609) 597-8581

