

Aurora Turtle Information

Aurora Turtle Species

Snapping turtle

Chelydra serpentina

Identification:

- ❑ Massive head
- ❑ Hooked upper jaw
- ❑ Rear of shell saw-toothed
- ❑ Long, spiked tail

Aurora habitats:

Star K Ranch, Aurora Reservoir, Quincy Reservoir, golf course ponds

Diet:

Snapping turtles eat just about anything they can swallow. Common foods include: frogs, fish, insects, young birds, snakes, and salamanders.

Painted turtle

Chrysemys picta

Identification:

- ❑ Shell green to brown above, red and gold below; flattened laterally
- ❑ Head, neck and limbs yellow streaked
- ❑ Aurora habitats:

Star K Ranch, Aurora Reservoir, Quincy Reservoir, golf course ponds

Diet: painted turtles eat aquatic insects, crayfish, small fish, and frogs.

Ornate box turtle

Terrapene ornate

Identification:

- ❑ Primarily terrestrial
- ❑ Shell is dome-shaped and streaked with golden yellow
- ❑ Underside of shell is hinged

Aurora habitats:

Ornate box turtles

Diet: box turtles eat beetles, grasshoppers, spiders, and worms.

*Red-eared slider

Trachemys scripta

Identification:

- ❑ Shell is flattened laterally
- ❑ Underside is yellow with dark patches
- ❑ Bright red "ear" behind each eye

Aurora habitats:

**Red-eared sliders are not native to Aurora. Originally from the Mississippi River watershed, they have been introduced to Aurora ponds and reservoirs; probably as escaped or released pets.*

Help conserve your local turtles...

- ❑ Never remove native turtles, snakes, or salamanders from the wild. The best way to find a pet reptile or amphibian is to buy one legally from a pet store.
- ❑ Do not release pet turtles, snakes, and salamanders into the wild. If they have been raised in captivity, they may not be able to find food and protect themselves from predators. Your unwanted pets may also introduce unwanted diseases into native ecosystems.

