

Western Hermann's Tortoise
(*Testudo hermanni hermanni*)
North American Regional Studbook

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INTRODUCTION

Also known as the Italian tortoise, the Western Hermann's tortoise is found only in disjoint populations on the mainland of Italy, the Italian islands of Sicily and Sardinia, southern France including the island of Corsica and also in Spain together with the Balearic Islands Majorca and Menorca. It is one of two currently recognized subspecies of Hermann's tortoise and remains the rarest. This tortoise once occupied a more expansive range in its native countries but has since been reduced to very small population numbers and a rather restricted distribution today. Severe over-collection for the pet trade in earlier years, habitat destruction, pollution and predation has had detrimental effects on wild *Testudo hermanni hermanni* inhabitants. Many areas where they once thrived are now vacant of any specimens at all. A small and vulnerable tortoise, *T. hermanni hermanni* stands little chance of survival in several areas where they currently exist. Many of these locations are major tourist attractions thus aiding in the continuation of tortoises being in the inevitable presence of man. The introduction and success of predatory animals such as the wild boar only increase the mortality rate of wild individuals and only a tiny percentage of hatchlings actually make it to adulthood. Even as adults these tortoises may not survive beyond the age of 20 to 30 years in nature as they succumb to wild fires and females are crushed on roadways while searching for nesting sites. With an average clutch size of usually no more than 2 to 3 eggs and a low fertility rate, it is difficult for *Testudo hermanni hermanni* to make any kind of "dent" in rebuilding already brutally damaged populations without human intervention. While some organizations in their native lands have had success with head-starting and release programs, it is still difficult to say what kind of real future these tortoises have in our ever-changing world.

Today, *T. h. hermanni* is maintained in captivity within some countries in decent numbers. Various reports of propagation success and captive bred juveniles sometimes being available to the general public within the reptile community have been noted. However, this tortoise remains poorly understood and we find it stuck amidst the mass identity confusion already engulfing the species and subspecies belonging to the genus *Testudo*. It is this reason among others that they remain extremely rare in United States captive collections. Countless animals no longer exist entirely due to improper care and the mixing of them with other types of tortoises. Blood lines once pure have been utterly destroyed which can only be attributed to the cross breeding between themselves and their common Eastern cousins (*Testudo hermanni boettgeri*) in captivity. This irresponsible display of human error has resulted in the production of impure specimens which are then additionally bred into other colonies diluting the blood lines even further. The influx of these cross-bred tortoises has supplemented the identity crisis already associated with Hermann's and other Mediterranean tortoise species in a great way. This unfortunately has led to the disappearance of pure blooded *T. h. hermanni* in U.S. collections.

The purpose behind the creation of the Western Hermann's Tortoise North American Regional Studbook is education, awareness and protection. We must educate ourselves on the proper identification of the world's turtle and tortoise species and subspecies. Their specific needs and requirements can only truly be met once we gain the knowledge and understanding regarding them. We need to beware of the potential threats these creatures face globally both in captivity and in the wild in order to successfully protect their future and their fate. The safeguarding of *Testudo hermanni hermanni*

by means of a studbook allows us to closely monitor the existing specimens in our country, under our care to ensure their purity and proper placement (of offspring) within the community. In past decades the unsuitable keeping of these tortoises through mismanagement and misunderstanding has left us with very few notably pure specimens with real historic evidence. The “founder stock” listed in this studbook are accountable for the legitimate forthcoming of their kind in American collections today. Their wellbeing is of boundless importance.



Figure 1. Adult female *Testudo hermanni hermanni* from Majorca, Spain. Photo by Chris Leone.

Western Hermann's Tortoise Studbook
(*Testudo hermanni hermanni*) - Locality 1: Tuscany, Italy

Studbook #	Microchip #	Sex	Hatch Date	Sire	Dam	Location	Local ID	Date			Event Type
								M	D	Y	
1001	*****728	M	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C	C1001L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
1002	*****703	M	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C	C1002L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
1003	*****929	M	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C	C1003L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
1004	*****339	M	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C Zovickian, W	C1004L	6 9	7 30	2013 2013	Capture Purchase/Import Purchase/Transfer
1005	*****073	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C	C1005L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
1006	*****922	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C	C1006L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
1007	*****303	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C	C1007L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
1008	*****821	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C	C1008L	6	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
1009	*****117	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C Leone, C	C1009L C1009L	8 9	7 30	2013 2013	Capture Purchase/Import Death
1010	*****384	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C	C1010L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
1011	*****351	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C	C1011L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
1012	*****829	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C	C1012L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
1013	*****729	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C	C1013L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
1014	*****687	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Tuscany, Italy Leone, C Zovickian, W	C1014L	8 9	7 30	2013 2013	Capture Purchase/Import Purchase/Transfer

Western Hermann's Tortoise Studbook

(*Testudo hermanni hermanni*) - Locality 1: Tuscany, Italy

Studbook #	Microchip #	Sex	Hatch Date	Sire	Dam	Location	Local ID	Date			Event Type
								M	D	Y	
1015		UNK	2/11/2014	1004	1008	Leone, C	C1015L	2	11	2014	Birth - Captive
1016		UNK	2/12/2014	1004	1008	Leone, C	C1016L	2	12	2014	Birth - Captive
1017		UNK	2/17/2014	1004	1008	Leone, C	C1017L	2	17	2014	Birth - Captive
1018		UNK	8/22/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	9	12	20	2013	Acquisition
1019		UNK	8/22/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	10	12	20	2013	Acquisition
1020		UNK	8/23/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	11	12	20	2013	Acquisition
1021		UNK	8/24/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	12	12	20	2013	Acquisition
1022		UNK	8/25/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	14	12	20	2013	Acquisition
1023		UNK	8/26/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	15	12	20	2013	Acquisition
1024		UNK	8/29/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	16	12	20	2013	Acquisition
1025		UNK	8/30/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	17	12	20	2013	Acquisition

Living Totals: 4.9.11 (24)



Figure 2. Adult female *Testudo hermanni hermanni* from Tuscany, Italy. Photo by Chris Leone.

Western Hermann's Tortoise Studbook

(*Testudo hermanni hermanni*) - Locality 2: Calabria, Italy

Studbook #	Microchip #	Sex	Hatch Date	Sire	Dam	Location	Local ID	Date			Event Type
								M	D	Y	
2001	*****982	M	N/A	WILD	WILD	Calabria, Italy Leone, C	C2001L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
2002	*****979	M	N/A	WILD	WILD	Calabria, Italy Leone, C	C2002L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
2003	*****182	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Calabria, Italy Leone, C	C2003L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
2004	*****949	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Calabria, Italy Leone, C	C2004L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
2005	*****727	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Calabria, Italy Leone, C	C2005L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
2006	*****794	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Calabria, Italy Leone, C	C2006L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
2007	*****356	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Calabria, Italy Leone, C	C2007L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
2008	*****615	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Calabria, Italy Leone, C	C2008L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
2009	*****444	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Calabria, Italy Leone, C	C2009L	8	7	2013	Capture Transfer/Import
2010	*****797	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Calabria, Italy Leone, C	C2010L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import

Living Totals: 2.8.0 (10)



Figure 3. Adult female *Testudo hermanni hermanni* from Calabria, Italy. Photo by Chris Leone.

Western Hermann's Tortoise Studbook
(*Testudo hermanni hermanni*) - Locality 3: Sicily, Italy

Studbook #	Microchip #	Sex	Hatch Date	Sire	Dam	Location	Local ID	Date			Event Type
								M	D	Y	
3001	*****279	M	N/A	WILD	WILD	Sicily, Italy Leone, C	C3001L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
3002	*****963	M	N/A	WILD	WILD	Sicily, Italy Leone, C	C3002L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
3003	*****446	M	N/A	WILD	WILD	Sicily, Italy Leone, C	C3003L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
3004	*****393	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Sicily Italy Leone, C	C3004L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
3005	*****206	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Sicily, Italy Leone, C	C3005L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
3006	*****000	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Sicily, Italy Leone, C	C3006L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
3007	*****856	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Sicily, Italy Leone, C	C3007L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
3008	*****810	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Sicily, Italy Leone, C	C3008L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
3009	*****283	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Sicily Leone, C	C3009L	8	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
3010		UNK	3/5/2014	UNK	3006	Leone, C	C3010L	3	5	2014	Birth - Captive
3011		UNK	3/13/2014	UNK	3006	Leone, C	C3011L	3	13	2014	Birth - Captive
3012		UNK	3/31/2014	UNK	3005	Leone, C	C3012L	3	31	2014	Birth - Captive
3013		UNK	4/8/2014	UNK	3004	Leone, C	C3013L	4	8	2014	Birth - Captive

Living Totals: 3.6.4 (13)



Figure 4. Adult female *Testudo hermanni hermanni* from Sicily, Italy. Photo by Chris Leone.

Western Hermann's Tortoise Studbook
(*Testudo hermanni hermanni*) - Locality 4: Majorca, Spain

Studbook #	Microchip #	Sex	Hatch Date	Sire	Dam	Location	Local ID	Date			Event Type
								M	D	Y	
4001	*****128	M	N/A	WILD	WILD	Majorca Leone, C	C4001L	6	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
4002	*****551	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Majorca Leone, C Leone, C	C4002L C4002L	6 11	7 27	2013	Capture Purchase/Import Death
4003	*****489	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Majorca Leone, C	C4003L	6	7	2013	Capture Purchase/Import
4004	*****053	M	N/A	WILD	WILD	Majorca Leone, C	C4004L	1	28	2014	Capture Purchase/Import
4005	*****715	M	N/A	WILD	WILD	Majorca Leone, C	C4005L	1	28	2014	Capture Purchase/Import
4006	*****802	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Majorca Leone, C	C4006L	1	28	2014	Capture Purchase/Import
4007	*****740	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Majorca Leone, C	C4007L	1	28	2014	Capture Purchase/Import
4008	*****529	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Majorca Leone, C	C4008L	1	28	2014	Capture Purchase/Import
4009	*****900	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Majorca Leone, C	C4009L	1	28	2014	Capture Purchase/Import
4010		UNK	7/12/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	81	12	20	2013	Acquisition
4011		UNK	7/13/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	82	12	20	2013	Acquisition
4012		UNK	7/13/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	83	12	20	2013	Acquisition
4013		UNK	7/14/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	84	12	20	2013	Acquisition
4014		UNK	7/15/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	85	12	20	2013	Acquisition
4015		UNK	7/16/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	86	12	20	2013	Acquisition
4016		UNK	7/17/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	87	12	20	2013	Acquisition
4017		UNK	7/20/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	88	12	20	2013	Acquisition
4018		UNK	7/22/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	89	12	20	2013	Acquisition
4019		UNK	7/24/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	91	12	20	2013	Acquisition

Living Totals: 3.5.10 (18)

Western Hermann's Tortoise Studbook

(*Testudo hermanni hermanni*) - Locality 5: Catalonia, Spain

Studbook #	Microchip #	Sex	Hatch Date	Sire	Dam	Location	Local ID	Date			Event Type
								M	D	Y	
5001	*****141	M	N/A	WILD	WILD	Serra de l'Albera Leone, C	C5001L	1	28	2014	Birth - Captive Purchase/Import
5002	*****892	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Serra de l'Albera Leone, C	C5002L	1	28	2014	Birth - Captive Purchase/Import
5003		UNK	4/22/2014	5001	5002	Leone, C	C5003L	4	22	2014	Birth - Captive
5004		UNK	4/26/2014	5001	5002	Leone, C	C5004L	4	26	2014	Birth - Captive
5005		UNK	4/27/2014	5001	5002	Leone, C	C5005L	4	27	2014	Birth - Captive

Living Totals: 1.1.3 (5)



Figure 5. Adult *Testudo hermanni hermanni* from Catalonia, Spain. Photo by Chris Leone.

Western Hermann's Tortoise Studbook
(*Testudo hermanni hermanni*) - Locality 6: Menorca, Balearic Islands, Spain

Studbook #	Microchip #	Sex	Hatch Date	Sire	Dam	Location	Local ID	Date			Event Type
								M	D	Y	
6001		UNK	8/23/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	1	12	20	2013	Acquisition
6002		UNK	8/25/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	2	12	20	2013	Acquisition
6003		UNK	8/26/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	3	12	20	2013	Acquisition
6004		UNK	8/26/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	4	12	20	2013	Acquisition
6005		UNK	8/27/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	5	12	20	2013	Acquisition
6006		UNK	8/28/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	6	12	20	2013	Acquisition
6007		UNK	8/30/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	7	12	20	2013	Acquisition
6008		UNK	8/31/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	8	12	20	2013	Acquisition
6009		M	ca. 1980	UNK	UNK	Blome, R Zovickian, W	51	6 10	1 2	1989 2013	Acquisition Transfer (Loan)
6010		F	ca. 1980	UNK	UNK	Blome, R Zovickian, W	52	6 10	1 2	1989 2013	Acquisition Transfer (Loan)
6011		F	ca. 1980	UNK	UNK	Blome, R Zovickian, W	53	6 10	1 2	1989 2013	Acquisition Transfer (Loan)

Living Totals: 1.2.8 (11)

Western Hermann's Tortoise Studbook
(*Testudo hermanni hermanni*) - Locality 7: Corsica, France

Studbook #	Microchip #	Sex	Hatch Date	Sire	Dam	Location	Local ID	Date			Event Type
								M	D	Y	
7001		UNK	8/13/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	19	12	20	2013	Acquisition
7002		UNK	8/14/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	21	12	20	2013	Acquisition
7003		UNK	8/15/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	22	12	20	2013	Acquisition
7004		UNK	8/15/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	23	12	20	2013	Acquisition
7005		UNK	8/16/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	24	12	20	2013	Acquisition
7006		UNK	8/17/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	25	12	20	2013	Acquisition
7007		UNK	8/18/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	26	12	20	2013	Acquisition
7008		UNK	8/19/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	27	12	20	2013	Acquisition
7009		UNK	8/28/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	39	12	20	2013	Acquisition
7010		UNK	8/31/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	40	12	20	2013	Acquisition

Living Totals: 0.0.10 (10)

Western Hermann's Tortoise Studbook
(*Testudo hermanni hermanni*) - Locality 8: Varoise, France

Studbook #	Microchip #	Sex	Hatch Date	Sire	Dam	Location	Local ID	Date			Event Type
								M	D	Y	
8001		UNK	7/15/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	41	12	20	2013	Acquisition
8002		UNK	7/17/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	42	12	20	2013	Acquisition
8003		UNK	7/19/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	43	12	20	2013	Acquisition
8004		UNK	7/20/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	44	12	20	2013	Acquisition
8005		UNK	7/23/2013	UNK	UNK	Zovickian, W	45	12	20	2013	Acquisition

Living Totals: 0.0.5 (5)



Figure 6. Adult female *Testudo hermanni hermanni* from Apulia, Italy. Photo by Chris Leone.

Western Hermann's Tortoise Studbook
(*Testudo hermanni hermanni*) - Locality 9: Apulia, Italy

Studbook #	Microchip #	Sex	Hatch Date	Sire	Dam	Location	Local ID	Date			Event Type
								M	D	Y	
9001	*****889	M	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ullmann, G Bailey, J Leone, C	C9001L	5	8	2009	Hatch Purchase/Transfer Purchase/Transfer
9002	*****393	F	N/A	WILD	WILD	Ullmann, G Leone, C	C9002L	?	??	2006	Capture Purchase/Transfer
9003	*****654	F	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ullmann, G Bailey, J Leone, C	C9003L	5	8	2009	Hatch Purchase/Transfer Purchase/Transfer
9004	*****721	F	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ullmann, G Heidecker, J Leone, C	C9004L	2	4	2009	Hatch Purchase/Transfer Purchase/Transfer
9005	*****635	F	5/29/2011	C5001L	C5004L	Leone, C	C9005L	5	29	2011	Hatch

Living Totals: 1.4.0 (5)

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