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## ***Beobachtungen bei der kombinierten Freiland- und Innenhaltung der Argentinischen Landschildkröte, *Geochelone chilensis****

### **Observations on keeping the Chaco tortoise, *Geochelone chilensis*, under combined outdoor and indoor conditions**

#### **Abstract**

After a short summary of the systematic status, the author's experiences with keeping Chaco tortoises in the northern hemisphere are described. The animals had been held according to the European annual cycle before the author obtained them. A readaptation to their natural seasonal cycles was brought about over a period of 3 years. Of greatest importance during this period was the slow adoption to outdoor husbandry, starting with a short stay under the warmest conditions, and leading to a nearly constant outdoor husbandry during the northeastern German summer. It was clear that the tortoises shifted their biological cycle. After returning them to the indoor terraria, the hibernation (evidenced by the behaviour of the tortoises) started earlier every year. After they awake, their summer is simulated. The extreme hot summer in Germany in 2003 led again to the suspension of the hibernation in that year. Further remarks about their social behaviour, and in particular difficulties with one male, are given.

#### **Key words**

Testudines, Testudinidae, *Geochelone chilensis*, seasonal re-transformation, keeping at the northern hemisphere

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