

TERRAPIN HATCHLINGS NEED A HAND!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

Diamondback terrapins are emerging above ground in yards and marshes along barrier islands. During the spring and early summer, these quarter-sized hatchlings are trying to make their way back to the bay.

A DANGEROUS JOURNEY

Hatchlings can get hit by cars, become trapped at street curbs, or fall into storm drains. The conditions in storm drains may threaten their survival.



Photo taken at Stockton Vivarium by trained staff and @what.sue.seas

IT'S EASY TO HELP!

If a healthy terrapin hatchling is in the marsh, you can just leave it alone. **It is illegal to keep diamondback terrapins as pets.** However, if you find one in the street or your yard, here are some simple steps you can take to help it.

1. Move the hatchling off of the road by gently picking it up.
2. Place the terrapin in a container with just enough room temperature fresh water (approximately 1/4 inch) to cover its feet. It can then rehydrate as you...
3. Take the terrapin to the nearest marsh as quickly as possible.
4. Find a release location with lots of hiding places like marsh grasses along the water's edge.
5. Release the terrapin near, but not in, the water, preferably under some fallen grasses, so it is hidden from predators like gulls, crows, foxes, and raccoons.

For more terrapin information, contact:

Atlantic & Cape May Counties

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

Ocean County

- Project Terrapin projectterrapin.org
- Long Beach Twp. Field Station www.lbtfieldstation.com
- The Terrapin Nesting Project terrapinnestingproject.org

