Blinky: African Spurred (sulcata) Tortoise — Fact Sheet

What is a Sulcata?

The African Spurred Tortoise (scientific name **Centrochelys sulcata**) is the largest mainland tortoise. Those big cone-shaped **"spurs"** on the back legs are protective scales that give the species its name. Blinky is the newest member of the Little Country Greenhouse crew—steady, curious, and built like a tiny bulldozer.

Where do they live?

Along the southern edge of the Sahara Desert (the **Sahel**) in countries like Senegal, Mali, Niger, Chad, and Sudan. It's hot and dry, so sulcatas dig **deep burrows** to stay cool and conserve moisture.

Size & lifespan

Adults commonly reach **24–30 inches** long and often weigh **70–110+ pounds**. With excellent care, sulcatas can live **50–80+ years**. Lifelong pal status unlocked.

Diet

Strict **herbivores** and natural **grazers**.

- High-fiber grasses and hay
- Weeds and leafy greens
- Cactus pads and other fiber-rich plants

Fruits and sugary treats are rare or avoided—too much sugar can upset a tortoise's gut.

Behaviors you'll notice

- **Master digger:** wide, strong forelimbs for tunneling
- **Daylight active:** most movement in warm daylight hours, resting during peak heat
- **"Bulldozer energy":** happily nudges bowls and logs out of the way

Why they matter

Sulcata burrows become **micro-habitats** used by other animals. As they graze, they help **spread seeds**, supporting healthy grasslands.

Blinky's care at LCG

Fresh water for soaking and drinking, fiber-rich greens, safe heat/UV access, and room to roam. Please enjoy with eyes only—no tapping on the shell.

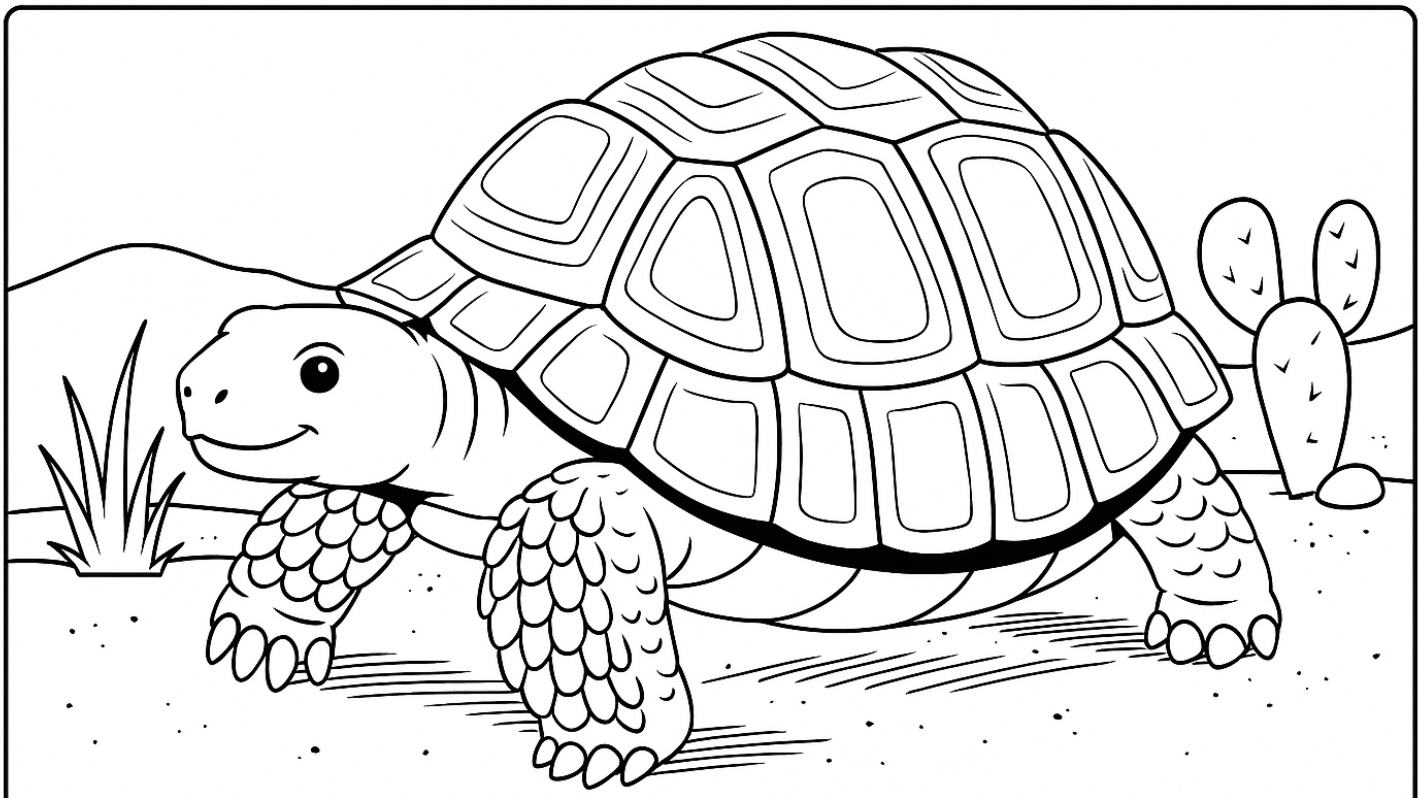
Fun facts

• Those leg **spurs** are part armor, part attitude.
• A healthy sulcata has a firm, domed shell and bright, curious eyes.
• They can lift surprising weight with those stocky legs.

Conservation note

Not globally endangered, but wild populations face habitat loss and collection pressures. Education and responsible care help protect the species.

(Structured to mirror your existing fact sheets for consistency.



BLINKY