

## **HIBERNATION GUIDELINES**

New guidelines for safe tortoise hibernation have been issued recently by the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA). The BCG also has its own guidelines which some members have been following successfully for many years. Our advice is that if your tortoise has been used to hibernating in this way, there is no need to change its routine as long as it is in a safe cool place where you can minimise temperature fluctuations. Use a digital thermometer with a probe so you can monitor the temperature inside the insulated hibernation box, and do regular weight checks. Milder winters make this especially important.