



Argentine Black & White Tegu

Salvator merianae

Care Sheet

Average Size

3 – 5 feet long

Average Lifespan

12 – 20 years

Diet

Argentine Tegus are omnivores; however juvenile tegus require more protein overall. Offer a variety of live insects including crickets, mealworms, waxworms, superworms, and cockroaches. Juveniles and adults will also eat rodents such as mice and rats. Be cautious when feeding live prey to insure injuries do not occur. Cooked turkey, chicken, fish, and hard-boiled eggs can also be offered. Adult Tegus will eat fruits such as bananas, apples, and berries.

Feeding

Feed babies and juveniles daily. Adults can eat leaner foods daily. Avoid feeding rodents daily as they are high in fat. Feed fattier foods 2-3 times a week. Dust food with calcium powder daily & a multivitamin once a week. Rodents don't require dusting.

Housing

Habitat - Argentine Tegu's come from Argentina. They are primarily terrestrial but they do occasionally jump and climb. Be sure to provide plenty of hiding spots on the ground along with some climbing areas. Grapevine and thick branches work good for climbing. Keep the environment warm and humid. Argentine Tegus may be kept alone or in pairs. If housed together tegus should be of similar size to avoid injury. Never house two males together in the same tank. Two females generally get along well. A male and female will likely breed if housed together.

Size - An adult must have a minimum cage size of twice the length of its body (including tail) long by the length of its body wide. The height of the enclosure should be tall enough for a deep layer of substrate. Babies can be started in a 40 Breeder.

Substrate - Due to humidity requirements an absorbent substrate is desired. Peat moss or coconut fiber are preferred. A thick substrate is preferred as Tegus love to dig and burrow. A baby should have 6 - 8 inches of substrate. An adult will require 1 - 2 feet.

Temperature - An Argentine Tegu's basking spot should be 100°- 110°F. The cool end of the tank can be as cool as 75°F.

Humidity -The cage should be misted daily to ensure proper humidity levels. Humidity levels should be between 60% - 80%.

Watering - Provide a bowl of fresh drinking water at all times. Argentine Tegus also like to swim. Provide a large enough water bowl so the lizard can soak and swim.

Lighting - Since this is a diurnal species, it requires two light bulbs. One is the heat lamp which also emits UVA. The second is a UVB lamp. The UVB lamp will specifically say UVB on the box. If the box doesn't say UVB, it's not UVB.

Plant and Fish bulbs are not UVB bulbs.



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