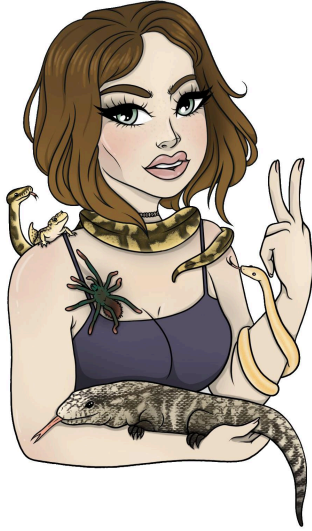




The Ultimate Sulcata Tortoise Care Sheet

Is this Reptile Right for You?

The Argentine Tegu is the largest tegu lizard in the world...

- Locale: Eastern and Central South America in Rainforests, Savannahs, and Semi-Desert Regions
- Scientific/Other Names: *salvador merianae*
- Animal Purchasing Costs: ranges from \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$ depending on genetics and age
- Durnal; will be most active during the daytime
- Maximum Size: Males: 5 Feet , Females: 3 Feet
- Venomous? No.
- Omnivores, Tegus consume meats, insects, and plant matter
- Level of ownership: Intermediate - Advanced; these lizards have detailed needs and require taming by their owner; they have a very strong bite.
- Lifespan in captivity: 15 - 20 years
- Time, Space, and Maintenance required:  * Learn about the Gizmo Rating System
- Personality and Handleability: as hatchlings and juveniles, they are quite skittish. With age and regular handling, these lizards can become quite tame
- UVB Lighting Required: Yes
- Best Characteristics: Argentine Tegus can form strong bonds with their owners and even learn tricks! They are extremely rewarding to own and can be a great alternative to a dog or cat.

- Challenges: Argentine tegus are active lizards with advanced intelligence. Because of this, they require large living quarters that are both secure and engaging. People who work a 9AM - 5PM work schedule or who are home minimal hours of the day may find keeping a tegu to be difficult. Decreased socialization with family members and people may produce an aggressive lizard.

...not sure if this reptile is the perfect pet for you? Here are some similar options...

1. Blue Tongue Skink (if space, time, and tame-ability is of concern)
2. Red, Green, or Blue Iguana (If you would like a less expensive reptile)

Yes! An Argentine Tegu is the Perfect Reptile for you. Here's how to care for them:

Essentials for your Argentine Tegu Setup:

- ☐ Enclosure
- ☐ Substrate
- ☐ Basking Light and Bulb
- ☐ UVB lighting
- ☐ 1 Hide
- ☐ Misting Bottle
- ☐ Heat Gun
- ☐ Water bowl
- ☐ Reptile Calcium with D3



Enclosure

1. Hatchling to Baby - 40 gallon
2. Juvenile - 60 - 80 gallon
3. Adult - 6x3x4 Foot Custom Enclosure

Substrate

1. Coco Husk Bedding *please make special considerations if you choose to use this bedding, as it can cause impaction if ingested.
2. Forest Floor Bedding
3. Bark Bedding

You have many options for substrate, however, please do not use cedar bedding. The oils in this material are toxic to all reptiles.

Heat Range

Reptiles require a range of heat so they can self regulate their temperature

- Ideal Cool End Temperature: 75 - 82 F
- Ideal Basking End Temperature: 95 - 110 F
- Unhealthy Low temperature: 65 F
- Unhealthy High Temperature: 95 F * consistent temperatures similar to this will result in unhealthy living conditions because they do not have a cool end to thermoregulate themselves.

Humidity

Humidity is a vital element of successfully keeping an Argentine Tegu healthy. Though their habitat ranges in humidity, it is recommended that you monitor and adjust your Tegu's enclosure to maintain the ideal humidity range for this species.

- Ideal Humidity Range: 60 - 80%
- Do not drop below 50%

- You can change the humidity in your Argentine Tegu's enclosure by simply increasing/decreasing water bowl size, adding reptile moss, or misting several times a day
- Manage humidity with a hydrometer

Food

- Argentine Tegus enjoy various raw meats, vegetables, and fruits in their diets
- Provide a variety of protein options; mix it up!
- Raw turkey, chicken parts, fish, and frozen/thawed rats are staples in a healthy tegu's diet.
- Sprinkle all Argentine Tegu meals with reptile calcium with D3

Sam's preferred Tegu meats (all to be consumed Raw):

- Ground Turkey
- Ground Chicken
- Chicken Livers
- Chicken Hearts
- Cod Pieces/Filets
- Salmon
- Crickets
- Mealworms
- Whole F/T Rats

Health Concerns

Tegus are typically a very hardy species. However, like most reptiles, there are some complications tegus can face to their health. Most can be corrected with adjusted husbandry:

1. Impaction
2. Stuck Shed

3. Amputated Digits (due to stuck shed)
4. Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD)
5. Dropped Tail
6. Eye Infections
7. Abscesses of Mouth
8. Respiratory Infection

