

Argentine Black & White Tegu



OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Salvator merianae*
- Origin: South America
- Ease of Care: Advanced
- Potential Adult size: 3ft to 5ft
- Life Span: Up to 20 years
- Behaviour: Diurnal
- Diet: Omnivore
- Handling: Advanced
- Humidity: 60-80%

TOP TIPS

- ✓ Vary the food items offered to your Tegu to keep it stimulated
- ✓ Use a sand scoop to make spot cleaning easier

HOUSING

The HabiStat Standard Vivarium 4ft x 2ft x 2ft (**DVF4824**) is ideal for the young/juvenile of the species until they reach approximately 2ft in length.

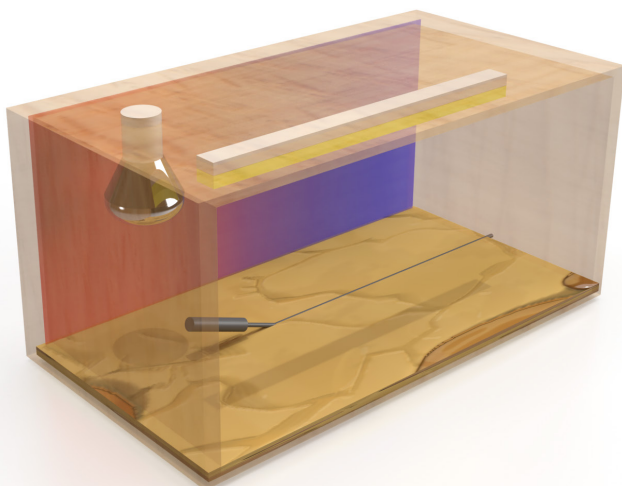
Once this length an exceptionally large enclosure will be required to accommodate the adult of the species who can grow up to 5ft long. A large custom-built enclosure which is at least 6ft x 3ft x 2ft in size or even bigger would be ideal.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Housing: Vivarium
- Heating: Heat Bulb
- Lighting: UV Tube (Light Cycle: 12 hours of light)
- Substrate: HabiStat Jungle Bio, HabiStat Coir, Arcadia Earth Mix Arid
- Water: Water Bowl

ENVIRONMENT

Terrestrial Vivarium Setup



Heating

Argentine Black & White Tegu's are diurnal reptiles and require a suitable light and heat gradient in the enclosure to simulate a complete 24-hour period.

- Background Temp: 22°C (72°F) to 25°C (77°F).
- HOT Spot: 38°C (100°F) to 43°C (110°F)
- Night-Time Temp: 18°C (64°F) to 21°C (69°F)

Provide a warmer/hot area towards the one side of the enclosure, using an overhead heat source to offer a heat gradient.

Use the Arcadia Pro Ceramic Lamp Holder & Bracket (**RADCHP**) with a HabiStat Heat Bulb (**HBB150**) in conjunction with a HabiStat High Range Dimming Thermostat (**HTDWHR**).

Dimming thermostats are designed to regulate temperatures using a thermostat probe (also known as a sensor). Correct placement of the probe is critical to avoid overheating and injury to the animal. Check temperatures regularly, using a reliable dual thermometer and hygrometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

Lighting

Fit the Arcadia Pro T5 UVB Kit 12% (**RARTP54R**) on the inside roof of the enclosure, with the Arcadia Lamp Guard Pro (**RALGP4**) protecting the UV tube.

Ensure that it is fitted correctly and within the manufacturer's recommended distances.

Substrate and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your enclosure, but we recommend the following as a guide:

- HabiStat Jungle Bio (**HSJB25**), HabiStat Coir (**HSC60**) or Arcadia Earth Mix Arid (**RAREA10**)
- Wood/branches for climbing, hiding, and sleeping on
- Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the animal
- A suitably sized sturdy water bowl must be provided in the cool end of the enclosure

DIET & WATER

The Argentine Black & White Tegu is mostly an insect eating species, so a varied diet of Black Crickets (**BCRCK**), House Crickets (**HOUSECR**), Locust (**LCST**), Roaches (**LDL8**) and Morio-worms (**LGM40**) make a good basis for a needed varied diet. But certainly, don't just limit the diet to just these examples.

The species will also consume greens, vegetation, weeds, flowers, and occasional fruit.

A few times a year offer the occasional defrosted rodent or poultry item as a treat.

Always provide a source of fresh water on the floor of the enclosure. The HabiStat Sandstone Water Dish (**HRSSCEL**) is a safe and sturdy option.

Regularly misting the enclosure as needed will ensure the Tegu's humidity requirements are met.

SUPPLEMENTATION

Argentine Black and White Tegu's need additional supplementation in the form of calcium and multi-vitamin powder such as Arcadia Earth Pro-A (**RAREP100**) and Arcadia Pro Calcium Mg (**RAREPCM80**). Please follow the packaging instructions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Argentine Black & White Tegu's require a high humidity range, this can be achieved by using a water retaining substrate combined with regular misting.
- This species needs an exceptionally large enclosure. One at least 6ft (L) x 3ft (D) x 2ft (H) in size.

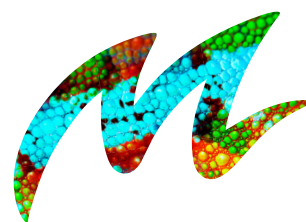
HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your animal healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily	Change old water for fresh water	Spot clean	Check vents on enclosure are not blocked and allow air to pass through freely
Weekly	Disinfect water bowl or dish	Agitate substrate to prevent any bacterial build up and to allow any dirty bedding to be removed	Wipe down glass and walls with a reptile safe disinfectant
Monthly		Take out old substrate and replace with new substrate	Wipe down inside the enclosure and disinfect décor with a reptile safe disinfectant

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling your animal, their food, enclosure, and any other equipment.



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