



Monitor and Tegus

(includes savannah monitor and tegu lizards)

Facts:

Average adult size: **1 to 7 feet, depending on species**

Average life span: **up to 10+ years with proper care, depending on species**

Diet: **Carnivore**



Tegus are among the largest of lizards. Monitors are not recommended for beginners.

Will reach adult size in 2-5 years, under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your reptile grows.

Feeding & Nutrition:

Diet

- A variety of insects, including crickets, mealworms and waxworms.
- Common goldfish; frozen, thawed rodents.
- Avoid high fat foods such as dog and cat food.
- **If feeding live rodents, do not leave your lizard unattended. Live rodents can injure the lizard, sometimes fatally.**

Feeding

- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times.
- Feed juvenile Tegus daily, adults 1-2 times a week.
- Feed juvenile Monitors 3 times a week, adults 1-2 times a week.
- Sprinkle food with calcium supplement daily and a multi-vitamin supplement once or twice a week.

Housing:

- **Size** - appropriate size and shape habitat to accommodate normal behaviors and exercise; ensure Tegu habitat is secure as they are escape artists.
- **Habitat** - most Monitors and Tegus like to climb; long, sturdy branches, driftwood, hollow logs, and large rocks are recommended. Maintain 60-80% humidity by misting as needed every day.
- **Substrate** - use a mulch-type such as coconut fiber, dampened sphagnum moss, and bark.
- **Temperature** - temperature gradient (100°F for the warm end and 70°F for the cool end); recommend radiant heat. Use an incandescent light or ceramic heater as primary heat source.
- **Lighting** - UVB rays with full spectrum lighting for 10-12 hours a day is required. An incandescent day bulb can be used for basking area during daylight hours only; can use a ceramic heater or black or red incandescent at all hours.
- **House adult Tegus and Monitors separately and do not house different reptile species together.**

Habitat Maintenance

- Thoroughly clean the habitat at least once a week: place lizard in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all traces of bleach smell. Dry the tank and furnishings completely and add

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Care Guide



clean substrate.

Care:

Grooming & Hygiene

- Lizards regularly shed their skin; ensure humidity of habitat is at appropriate level to allow proper shedding. To facilitate shedding, bathe in a large container that allows the lizard to immerse its entire body or provide a shed box, which is essentially a hide box with sphagnum moss that will aid in the shedding process.

Health

- Active and alert
- Clear eyes
- Body and tail are rounded, filled out
- Healthy skin
- Clear nose and vent
- Eats regularly

Normal Behavior

- Tegus and Monitors are not naturally tame; significant time must be spent with them to handle them.
- Prefer a daily routine with set feeding and cleaning times.
- Likes to hide in dark, tight areas.

Recommended Supplies:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Size Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Fixture and Bulb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Food | <input type="checkbox"/> UVB Fixture and Bulb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treats | <input type="checkbox"/> Calcium Supplement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin Supplement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moss | <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket Keeper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food/Water Dish | <input type="checkbox"/> Under Tank Heater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hide | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing Décor | <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity Gauge |

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