Caring for Your Argentine Tegu

Scientific Name: *Tupinambis merianae* / *Tupinambis rufescens*  
Native to: *Argentina*  
Maximum Length: 3 - 5 feet  
Life Span: 15 - 20 years

**Characteristics:**  
Argentine Tegus are large reptiles, with some species reaching a total length of around four feet, and a weight of approximately fifteen pounds. Tegus are omnivorous, foraging for a wide range of foods and come from South America.

**Care Tips:**  
**Enclosure:** Tegus are very active creatures who need as much space as possible, so we recommend an enclosure with a minimum of 4 by 6 feet.

**Substrate:** Coconut husk course chips or pure cypress mulch

**Habitat:** Tegus should be provided with a place to bask and a safe hiding spot or two as well as a large water dish.

**Temperature and Lighting:** Warm side should be 95 - 110F degree while the cool side should be 75 - 85F degrees. UVB lighting must be provided. Tegus enjoy a humidity level between 75 - 90%.

**Food and Water:** Crickets, mealworms, and some fruits. As adults they will eat mice, fish, eggs, fruits, and rats.