

# Golden Tegu Care Sheet



## PROFILE

*Common Name:* **Columbian or Golden Tegu**

*Latin Name:* ***Tupinambis teguixin***

*Native To:* **Central  
South America**

*Size:* **1.5 – 3ft**

*Life Span:* **15 – 20 years**

## HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

### ***Environment:***

Found throughout forest and jungle scrubland and bordering along agricultural land.

### ***Vivarium Size:***

Due to the overall size of an adult golden tegu (dependent on gender, males being significantly larger than females) we would recommend a large enclosure 6'x3'x2' for a male and 4'x2'x2' for a female. You can easily use a 3 or 4 foot vivarium for a baby and upgrade them to larger once they are full grown.

### ***Substrate:***

A good forest mix allowing for water retention and increased humidity but also allowing the tegu to dig and burrow would be ideal. There are many different prepared substrates available to use including forest bedding, coco husk, bark chippings and mixed soils. Including hides and sturdy branches to the enclosure as enrichment will benefit the tegu immensely.

### ***Food and Water:***

Tegus are optimistic omnivores that will eat anything they can overpower or identify as food. Variety is the best thing for these reptiles. Whole foods such as rats, mice and chicks will be accepted happily as will larger insects, locusts, crickets and roaches. Organ meat and eggs are another excellent addition to the diet with the occasional grape or melon treat. Fish and crustaceans should not be overlooked as part of the diet as they

contain trace elements otherwise missing from the tegus varied tastes.

A large water bowl should be provided as tegus will drink every day and use the bowl to soak in. This will also help keep humidity in the required range of 60-80%. Misting twice per day will also help maintain this level.

### ***Heat/Light Requirements:***

Golden tegus enjoy a less humid and slightly warmer environment to their Argentinian cousins. The vivarium should be set up with basking spot and fairly level temperature gradient. UV lighting is essential for these animals and should be provided 6% UVB 10-12 hours per day.

Below are the ideal temperatures for your Golden Tegu, all of which can be thermostatically controlled:

Day (cool end): 26 -30°C

Basking (warm end): 35 - 37°C

Night: 26 - 28°C

**Please note that this care sheet is only for your basic husbandry knowledge and that it is always recommended that you do further reading.**

## FURTHER READING

[www.tegusfromaroundtheworld.weebly.com](http://www.tegusfromaroundtheworld.weebly.com)

### ***Any Problems?***

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

Or email us at [shirley\\_reptiles@live.co.uk](mailto:shirley_reptiles@live.co.uk)

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