

Argentine Black and White Tegu

The Argentine black and white tegu is a large, nonnative lizard that has been introduced to Florida. They are black and white in color with banding along the tail and can reach over four feet in length.

In Florida, tegus can be seen on roadsides or other disturbed areas. They spend most of their time on land, though they can swim. Like many reptiles, tegus are more active during the day and will burrow and hide overnight.

Tegus compete with and prey upon Florida's native wildlife, including some protected species.

What to do if you see a tegu

Report tegus to FWC! Your report helps us manage this invasive species. Take a picture of the tegu and write down where and when you saw it. Then call FWC at 1-888-Ive-Got1 (1-888-483-4681) or report it online at IveGot1.org. Get your parents' help if needed.

What to do if you have a pet tegu that you can't care for anymore

Don't let it loose! See if local hobby groups, rescues, pet stores, nature centers, or museums will take your tegu as a donation. You can also bring your pet to one of FWC's Exotic Pet Amnesty Days, or call our adoption hotline at 1-888-Ive-Got1 (1-888-483-4681).

