



## African spurred tortoise (*Geochelone Sulcata*)



The African spurred tortoise is located in central Africa. Inhabiting dry arid deserts from the west coast of Senegal and Mauritania, east to southern and central Mali, southern Niger, northern Nigeria, central and eastern Chad, central and eastern Sudan and central to northern Ethiopia. The temperatures range from a low of 50 to a high of 110 degrees. Rainfall ranges from 2 to 12 inches yearly, with some prolonged periods of drought.

very heavily built tortoise with large powerful legs covered with thick heavy scales. The skin color is usually straw colored or yellow. The carapace color can range from dark brown to a light tan or yellow.

In captivity Sulcatas prove to be very adaptable and hearty if given the proper diet and housing. They have often been referred to as the dogs of the tortoise world. Having a very curious nature and bold personality, they are docile and easily trained, adapting to captivity with seemingly little effort.

Sulcatas are herbivores, so their main diet should be grasses, leaves, vetches, alfalfa and hay. Other favorites are prickly pear cactus and the fruit, roses, dandelions, hibiscus and ruellia.



The tortoise is named for the spurs (two or three) on each side of the tail. The best distinction of this tortoise is its size. With a length of up to 33 inches weight of up to 200 pounds, the spurred tortoise is the largest mainland species. The Sulcata is a

