



Black and White Tegu Voluntary Surrender Program

Regulations, enacted on May 28, 2021, prohibit Argentine Black and White Tegus and their hybrids from being reproduced or brought into South Carolina, and require owners to register their Black and White Tegus and hybrids with SCDNR by September 25, 2021. After this date, no unregistered Black and White Tegu may be possessed and no Tegu may be bought, sold, or transferred. Any violations of regulation 123-152 are subject to fines of up to \$2500 and/or 1 year in jail per violation.

The South Carolina General Assembly has instructed SCDNR, in Budget Proviso 47.15, to implement a program to encourage the voluntary surrender of Black and White Tegus (and their hybrids) during the registration period that ends September 25, 2021. South Carolina residents who voluntarily surrender a Black and White Tegu are eligible to receive a one-time payment of \$100 for each live tegu that is surrendered so long as funds remain available. As of July 1, 2021, owners who do not wish to register their tegus may voluntarily surrender their animals to SCDNR and receive a \$100 payment.

Individuals who wish to surrender Black and White Tegus must contact the Department to arrange the surrender. Individuals must provide the number of animals to be surrendered as well as comply with State Procurement Service rules (<https://procurement.sc.gov>) in order to receive payment. Payments will be processed and mailed to each individual in accordance with South Carolina Procurement Code. Payments will be provided through September 25, 2021, or until all funds are expended.

In order to surrender a Black and White Tegu, please contact us at herps@dnr.sc.gov or call 803-734-3886 to arrange or for any questions. SCDNR offices and staff will not accept surrendered tegus without prior arrangement.