**Black and White Tegu**

**Native to:** mountains of South America Argentina and Chile

**Predators:** small wild cats, snakes, birds of prey

**Prey:** Omnivores- seeds, fruits, invertebrates, eggs, rodents

**Facts:**

* Very highly intelligent: can be trained to come, seek out affection from caregiver, and be house broken
* Largest species of tegu
* Males are larger than females, and can grow to be up to 5 feet long
* Females can grow to be about 3 feet long
* Tend to burrow to remain protected, but can swim and remain submerged for long periods of time.
* May be very brightly colored with greens and yellows, but colors fade over time
* In the wild the are mostly active at night time in which the search the mountains for their food source.

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Several sharp teeth
* Tails can whip to protect them

**Reproduction:**

* 7-10 eggs, which the females guard until birth
* Hatchlings are about a quarter inch thick, and about 7 inches long

**Lifespan:** 10 years in the wild, and 25 years in captivity

**Handling Tips:**

Chaplin is a 2 year old male. He is extremely receptive to working with humans, and loves to crawl around your hands, arms, and shoulders. His nails may agitate your skin, so long sleeves are recommended. He is extremely docile, but moves quickly.