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TORTUGAS

Gopher Tortoise

Gopherus polyphemus

Gopherus polyphemus is a large, dark tortoise from dry, sandy woodland in the south-eastern USA. It digs burrows up to 12 m long, which several hundred other animal species use as shelter. The shell length is 23-30 cm. The species needs a large outdoor enclosure with deep, dry sandy soil, plenty of grass and an artificial burrow.

Familia: Testudinidae

DATOS CLAVE

EL ANIMAL

Tamaño adulto	**23-30 cm** longitud total con la cola
Peso	**2.000-6.000 g**
Esperanza de vida	**60-100 años**
Activo	**De día**
Modo de vida	**Excavador**
Hábitat	**Sabana**
Dificultad	**Avanzado**

CUIDADOS

Terrario mín.	**200 × 100 × 40 cm** L × An × Al para 1 adulto
Temperatura, día	**24-30 °C**
Punto caliente	**32-36 °C**
Temperatura, noche	**18-22 °C**
Humedad	**40-70 %**
Agua	**Bebedero**
UVB	**Imprescindible** Zona Ferguson 3
Alimentación	**Plantas**
Se mantiene	**En solitario o en pareja**

CRÍA

Reproducción	**Ovípara**
Madurez sexual	**108-240 meses**
Tamaño de la puesta	**3-15 huevos**
Puestas por año	**1**
Incubación	**60-90 días** a 30-31 °C

PROTECCIÓN Y TRÁMITES

CITES	**Apéndice II**
Anexo de la UE	**Anexo B**
UICN	**En peligro crítico (CR)**

Cuidados de un vistazo

EL TERRARIO	Little has been published about keeping *Gopherus polyphemus*. The care advice rests on the habitat and on the closely related *Gopherus agassizii*, which has the same burrowing way of life.
TEMPERATURA	By day the temperature should be 24-30 °C, with a basking spot of 32-36 °C under a heat lamp, measured on the substrate. At night 18-22 °C is suitable, and the heat is switched off.
HUMEDAD Y AGUA	The species needs a relative humidity of 40-70%, and in the burrow it can be up to 80%. Keep the surface dry, but make the burrow more humid by putting damp soil and leaves at the bottom.
ILUMINACIÓN Y UVB	The species is diurnal and basks a lot. Sunlight is best, and the animal should be out in the sun as often as the weather allows. Indoors there must be UVB lighting with a UV index of 2.0-3.0 at the basking spot (Ferguson zone 3).
ALIMENTACIÓN	*G. polyphemus* is a grazer, and grass makes up about 80% of the diet.
COMPORTAMIENTO Y MANIPULACIÓN	The animal is solitary and spends most of its time digging, eating and basking. In the wild the animals live in colonies with closely spaced burrows, and some females repeatedly visit the same female's burrow.
ÁREA DE DISTRIBUCIÓN NATURAL	Estados Unidos.