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TARTARUGHE

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.

Famiglia: Testudinidae

DATI ESSENZIALI

L'ANIMALE

Dimensioni da adulto	**23-30 cm** lunghezza totale inclusa la coda
Peso	**2.000-6.000 g**
Aspettativa di vita	**60-100 anni**
Attività	**Di giorno**
Stile di vita	**Scavatore**
Habitat	**Savana**
Difficoltà	**Esperto**

CURA

Terrario min.	**200 × 100 × 40 cm** L × P × H per 1 adulto
Temperatura, giorno	**24-30 °C**
Punto caldo	**32-36 °C**
Temperatura, notte	**18-22 °C**
Umidità	**40-70%**
Acqua	**Ciotola d'acqua**
UVB	**Indispensabili** Zona Ferguson 3
Alimentazione	**Piante**
Detenzione	**Singolarmente o in coppia**

RIPRODUZIONE

Riproduzione	**Ovipara**
Maturità sessuale	**108-240 mesi**
Uova per deposizione	**3-15 uova**
Deposizioni all'anno	**1**
Incubazione	**60-90 giorni** a 30-31 °C

TUTELA E DOCUMENTI

CITES	**Appendice II**
Allegato UE	**Allegato B**
IUCN	**In pericolo critico (CR)**

La cura in breve

IL 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.

UMIDITÀ E ACQUA

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.

ILLUMINAZIONE E 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).

ALIMENTAZIONE

G. polyphemus is a grazer, and grass makes up about 80% of the diet.

COMPORTAMENTO E MANIPOLAZIONE

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.

AREALE D'ORIGINE

Stati Uniti.