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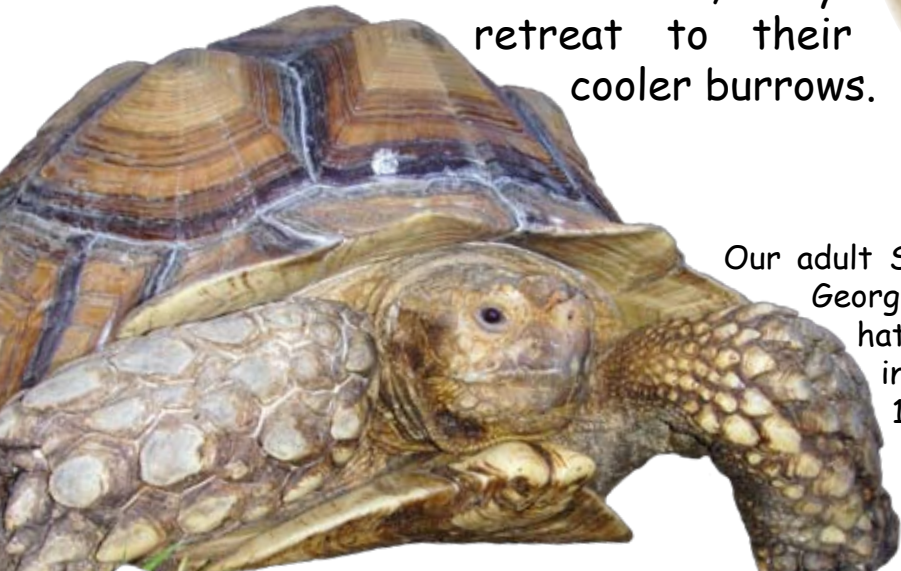
# SULCATA TORTOISE

## aka AFRICAN SPURRED TORTOISE

*Geochelone sulcata*

It is the third largest species of tortoise in the world and the largest species of mainland tortoise (not found on an island).

Due to the hot, dry habitat they live in the Sulcata's are crepuscular, meaning they are mostly active at dawn and dusk. When they get too hot they coat their skin with mud when available to cool off. When mud wallows are not available, they retreat to their cooler burrows.



Our adult Sulcatas, like Georgie here, were hatched here in the mid 1970s.



The babies pictured here hatched in 2007, offspring from our adult Sulcatas can often be seen in the reptile house.

Man is still their biggest threat to survival, as habitat alteration and collection for food play a major role in their demise. They are also often used for target practice by some army training camps.

### FACTS & FIGURES

Where found	Central Africa
Habitat	Sahara desert
Diet	Grasses, weeds, cactus, fruits, flowers
Maximum weight	Up to 80kg
Number of eggs	Up to 40
Incubation	3 to 10 months. Depending on ground temperature.
Lifespan	Over 150 years

International Union for Conservation of Nature RED LIST for the Sulcata Tortoise



**THE RISK OF EXTINCTION FOR THIS SPECIES HAS CURRENTLY BEEN ASSESSED AS *VULNERABLE* IUCN RED LIST**