

Black Pine Animal Park

Animal Facts

Breed: IGUANA

Names / Sex / Age:

Zilla	Male	Unknown, at least 12-14 years
LaRita	Female	Approx. 8
Harley Sue	Female	Approx. 4

Previous Home: Private homes

Native to: Tropical America, all the way to southern Brazil.

Weight: Up to 9 pounds.

Life Expectancy: Late teens or longer.

Diet: Leaves, berries, fruits, and plant material.

Facts:

- Mature at 3 years, iguanas can reach 6' in length as adults
- They have large rows of sharp teeth and can easily break a human's arm by whipping their tail
- Their tail is up to 3 times as long as their body
- Great climbers, even being heavy, they can maintain good balance on even the most slender branch. If disturbed, it can drop to the ground and dart away.
- Water is the green iguana's safest habitat and it will plunge from an overhanging branch and remain submerged for several minutes until danger has passed.
- Iguanas can stay under water for up to 30 minutes
- They forage for food from the forest floor to the canopy – as high as 100 feet from the ground.
- If an iguana suffers a tail break (severed or broken off) it may not grow back; it depends on animal's age (younger animals have a better chance), health, and location of the break.

Personal History:

Zilla was adopted from a private owner many years ago and is the eldest of the three, and the sole male. In 2009 Zilla had to have about six inches of his tail amputated due to "dry tail", the result of some injury that cut off circulation, resulting in dying tissue.

A local veterinarian called the park in 2003 and asked us to take LaRita. She was being treated for being "egg bound" and was in need of surgery. Due to the internal damage her reproductive organs had to be removed. Her owners either could not afford the surgery, or did not return to take the animal home, so she needed permanent refuge.

Harley Sue was captured in a cage that was set up to in a back yard to catch a feral cat that had kittens. When no one among the neighbors claimed the animal, her rescuers did their

Updated 3/1/10

Black Pine Animal Park

Animal Facts

research and provided her temporary refuge until a permanent home could be found. At the time Black Pine was contacted the park was in the midst of moving to the new site and had no place for the animal. Her caregivers maintained her in good health until, in summer 2008, the park could adopt her into the new iguana/tortoise habitat.