

For Immediate Release  
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**“Tony” the Tegu Available for Adoption At Peninsula Humane Society  
...Rare Lizard Weighs More than Some Shelter Cats!**

February 2 , 2016 (Burlingame) – The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA) is looking to rehome a rare pet lizard, a six-pound, two-foot long Argentinian Black and White Tegu surrendered to the shelter last week by an owner who is moving and no longer able to provide the proper care.

Tegus, native to South America, resemble monitor lizards. This particular tegu, named “Tony” by his previous owner, has been well-cared for as a pet, he is social and can be handled. He is five years old; with proper husbandry, diet/nutrition and veterinary care, tegus can live 15-20 years.

Argentine tegus make amenable pets, as they tend to become attached to their owners and are generally quite docile as adults. They are intelligent and can even be house-broken.

PHS/SPCA is seeking a permanent home for Tony, who should not be housed with other pets, and would prefer to place Tony with an experienced reptile owner. Tony’s adoption fee is \$100, which is well below the amount someone might pay to purchase an adult tegu from a pet store.

The large lizard will enjoy access to an outdoor area for sun, a soaking pool, exercise and mental stimulation during warmer weather months. When kept indoors – which will be the majority of the time – the lizard will benefit from access to a room or secure area that is easy to clean without use of chemicals to roam around in as well as an enclosure (6 feet long by 2 feet wide and 3-4 feet tall) with a heat element and misting device.

Tegus are omnivores; Tony’s diet consists of fruits, bugs, fish, ground turkey, chicken and beef liver and eggs.

It is believed that Tony was purchased from Craig’s List or another online platform.

While PHS/SPCA has never had this particular type of lizard, the shelter rehomes dozens of exotic pets each year and currently has several lizards and reptiles available for adoption at their Center for Compassion on in Burlingame; they include two bearded dragons, a leopard gecko, Chinese Water Dragon, two red-ear slider turtles, a corn snake and ball python.

Many exotics pets at PHS/SPCA and shelters around the country are believed to be pet store “impulse” buys purchased with little forethought, then surrendered by owners once the novelty wears off or when owners find themselves no longer able or willing to provide care.

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