*Geochelone sulcata* is the largest continental land tortoise with recorded carapace lengths to 83 cm (over 2.5 feet) and a maximum recorded weight of 105 kg (about 240 lbs.). African Spurred tortoises like (and need) space - lots of it. They are also extremely strong animals, so flimsy accommodation is definitely out of the question. All fixtures and fittings must be firmly bolted down and all fences and walls must be sufficiently resilient to resist the effort which will undoubtedly be directed at overcoming them! Our own Spurred tortoise house consists of a 2m X 2m (6' X 6') indoor grazing area, a secondary 2m X 2m sleeping quarters and a 7m X 4m (20' X 12') outdoor grazing area. This we consider adequate for 2 medium sized adults. Juveniles may be maintained out of doors in protected, secure enclosures whenever the weather permits, or indoors in open-topped pens. Like many tortoises, *G. sulcata* juveniles do not usually respond well to enclosed vivariums. An attractively landscaped open-topped enclosure provides both security and a stimulating, well ventilated environment.

In captivity, *G. sulcata* require a very high fibre intake. A lack of dietary fibre will precipitate digestive tract disturbance, diarrhoea and much increased susceptibility to flagellate and worm problems. The feeding of fruit will result in similar problems and can also result in severe colic. Fruit, if given at all, should be only an occasional treat. It should not form a regular part of the diet for this species. *Geochelone sulcata* require daily access to a natural grazing area and will feed readily upon mixed grasses, hibiscus, clover and - a great favourite - prickly pear pads.. Due to their prodigious rate of growth, their demand for calcium and mineral trace elements is high. A calcium-D3 supplement should be provided daily.

**Further details on keeping Sulcatas are available from the Tortoise Trust.**