

# SWEET VALLEY RANCH ANIMAL ROSTER



# 10-Foot Animatronic Crocodile



Crocodiles are large semiaquatic reptiles that live throughout the tropics in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Australia. Although they appear similar, crocodiles, alligators and the gharial belong to separate biological families. The most obvious external differences are visible in the head, with crocodiles having narrower and longer heads, with a more V-shaped than a U-shaped snout compared to alligators and caimans. Saltwater crocodile can grow to sizes over 23 ft and weigh 2,200 lb.

## Diet

They are carnivorous animals, feeding mostly on vertebrates such as fish, reptiles, birds and mammals. Crocodiles are ambush predators, waiting for fish or land animals to come close, then rushing out to attack.

## Breeding

Crocodiles lay eggs, which are laid in either holes or mound nests, depending on species. A hole nest is usually excavated in sand and a mound nest is usually constructed out of vegetation. Nesting periods range from a few weeks up to six months. Courtship takes place in a series of behavioral interactions that include a variety of snout rubbing and submissive display that can take a long time. Mating always takes place in water, where the pair can be observed mating several times. Egg-laying usually takes place at night and about 30–40 minutes. Females are highly protective of their nests and young. Depending on the species of crocodile, 7 to 95 eggs are laid.

## Habitat

All crocodiles are semiaquatic and tend to congregate in freshwater habitats such as rivers, lakes, wetlands and sometimes in brackish water and saltwater. All crocodiles are tropical species that, unlike alligators, are very sensitive to cold.

## Fun Facts

They are the biggest reptiles on Earth.

Crocodiles can go through 4,000 teeth over a lifetime.

A crocodile's jaws can apply 5,000 pounds of pressure per square inch – the strongest bite of any animal in the world.

## 5-Foot Animatronic Ichtyostega



Ichtyostega An early genus of tetrapodomorphs that lived at the end of the Late Devonian Period (370 million years ago). It was one of the first four-limbed vertebrates in the fossil record. Ichtyostega possessed lungs and limbs that helped it navigate through shallow water in swamps. Ichtyostega was a large animal, broadly built and about 1.5 m (4.9 ft) long.

### Diet

They were carnivores.

### Breeding

Water was also a requirement, because the gel-like eggs of the earliest terrestrial tetrapod's couldn't survive out of water, so reproduction could not occur without it. Water was also needed for their larvae and external fertilization.

### Habitat

Its fossils were found in rocks in eastern Greenland

### Fun Facts

One of the coolest facts about Ichtyostega is not that it had webbed feet, but that it had the ability to breathe air for at least short periods of time.

## 10-Foot Long by 5-Foot-Tall Animatronic Kerberos



KERBEROS (Cerberus) was the gigantic, three-headed hound of Hades which guarded the gates of the underworld and prevented the escape of the shades of the dead. Kerberos was depicted as a three-headed dog with a serpent's tail, mane of snakes, and a lion's claws.

### Diet

Kerberos seems to love to eat souls. Guest should visit Haunted Hallows of Cedar Creek to dine with him (or be the main course)

### Breeding

You do not want to know.

### Habitat

There were several locations which were said to be the place where Heracles brought up Cerberus from the underworld. The geographer Strabo (63/64 BC – c. AD 24) reports that "according to the myth writers" Cerberus was brought up at Tainaron, the same place where Euripides has Heracles enter the underworld. Seneca has Heracles enter and exit at Tainaron.

### Fun Facts

Jeff Woodrey, Sweet Valley Ranch Attraction Manager, is the only one in the world who has one as a pet. *I know, "Kind of Weird."*

## 3-Foot Animatronic Salamandridae



Salamandridae is a family of salamanders consisting of true salamanders and newts. Salamandrids are distinguished from other salamanders by the lack of rib or costal grooves along the sides of their bodies and by their rough skin. They are 3 to 14 inches in length.

### Diet

All Salamandridae feed on small invertebrate prey, including insects, earthworms, slugs, and snails.

### Breeding

Many species within this family reproduce by method of internal fertilization. Additionally, there are many species-specific courtship rituals that males perform to attract mates. These courtship rituals often employ pheromones to induce mating behavior in females.

### Habitat

Salamandridae are distributed throughout Europe and Asia, although the distribution of Salamandra and reaches North Africa.

### Fun Facts

Nearly all salamandrids produce a potent toxin in their skin, with some species being deadly to many other animal species.

## 10-Foot Long by 7.5-Foot Tall Spider “Giant Aranea”



This is the largest known Spider in North America. Aranea is Latin for spider.

### Diet

The Aranea uses a highly toxic venom to cause immediate paralyzation.

### Breeding

We hope “Not”!!!

### Habitat

Aranea has been seen near Sweet Valley Ranch’s Dinosaur Trail.

### Fun Facts

One of Dr. Surgeon’s experiments using the DNA of a Deer Tick with a Pot Belly Pig.

Spiders are arachnids, not insects.

Spiders are nearsighted.

Spiders are found on every continent of the world except Antarctica.

An abnormal fear of spiders is called ‘arachnophobia.’

# Australian Black Swan



One of only three swan species that inhabit the southern hemisphere, the large Black swan is an unmistakable water bird. The body of an adult Black swan is mostly black, except for its broad white wing tips, visible in flight. Its bill is bright red, having a pale tip and bar, and its feet and legs are grayish black.

## Diet

Black swans are herbivores, and they feed mostly on underwater plants and algae. In different areas, specific species of plants will make up large portions of their diet. Some of these important plant species include cattails, eel grass, pondweed, and more.

## Breeding

Black Swans form isolated pairs or small colonies in shallow wetlands. They pair for life, with both adults raising one brood per season. Eggs are laid in an untidy nest made of reeds and grasses.

## Habitat

Black Swans predominantly occur in the southeast and southwest of Australia. Black Swans frequent lakes, rivers, estuaries and swamps.

## Fun Facts

Like other swans, the black swan is largely monogamous, pairing for life (about 6% divorce rate).

A black swan has the longest neck, relative to its size of all swan species.

A black swan is the official bird of Western Australia and is featured on the flag of this state and in its coat of arms.

# Chicken



Sweet Valley Ranch has over 200 chickens including the following varieties: Silky, Brahma, Frizzle, Rhode Island Red and Many More. The chicken, a subspecies of the red junglefowl, is a type of domesticated fowl, originally from Asia. Rooster, or cock, is a term for an adult male bird. A younger male may be called a cockerel; a male that has been castrated is a capon. The adult female bird is called a hen. The average lifespan for chickens is typically 5-10 years.

## Diet

Chickens are omnivores and enjoy a variety of fruits, vegetables, grains and even table scraps.

## Breeding

Chickens can produce fertilized eggs year-round, but they tend to be more prolific during the springtime. This is especially true if you live in a cold climate. Chickens spend most of their energy keeping warm during the winter months, and less time mating.

## Habitat

Chickens utilize farms and backyards as their natural habitat.

## Fun Facts

Many believe that chickens have poor vision and are colorblind, but in fact, their color vision is better than humans due to a well-organized eye with five types of light receptors enabling them to see many colors in any given part of the retina. Chickens are capable of at least 30 different vocalizations and each one means something specific. They alert each other to food, call young chicks, purr in contentment, and warn other flock members of predators. Mother hens even talk to their babies when they are still in the egg with soft purrs. The unborn chicks respond with soft, high-pitched peeps.

# Ducks



Sweet Valley Ranch has over 100 ducks including the following varieties: Mallard, Indian Runner, Pekin, Buff, Crested White, Chocolate Runner and many more. Ducks are birds that are also called “waterfowls”. Ducks are related to geese and swans, but the duck is the smallest of them all. Ducks have shorter necks and wings than other waterfowl, and they also have a stout body. Ducks can live from 2-12 years, depending on species.

## Diet

Ducks are omnivorous, meaning they eat both plants and animals. Depending on the duck, they consume an impressive variety of foods: earthworms, snails, slugs, mollusks, small fish, fish eggs, small crustaceans, grass, herbaceous plants, leaves, aquatic plants, algae, amphibians, insects, seeds, grains, berries and nuts

## Breeding

Depending on the breed and the season, you can expect your first eggs when your ducks are 4-7 months old, or when breeding season starts.

## Habitat

Ducks are normally found in places with water like marshes, oceans, rivers, ponds, and lakes. This is because ducks love the water.

## Fun Facts

A male duck is called a drake, a female duck a hen, and a baby duck a duckling.

Ducks have 3 eyelids.

Since ducks have no nerves or blood vessels in their feet so they cannot feel hot or cold.

## Pigeon



Sweet Valley Ranch has over 100 Fancy Pigeons including the following varieties: Fantail, Trumpeter, Giant Runt, White King, Jacobin and many more. These are stout-bodied birds with short necks, and short slender bills that in some species feature fleshy ceres.

### Diet

Our Pigeon family at Sweet Valley Ranch is fed seeds, fruits, and plants.

### Breeding

After the pigeons have paired, they will lay the first egg in ten days or so. The second egg will usually come two days later. The parents will not usually incubate the first egg until the second is laid.

### Habitat

In the wild, pigeons often live on or near large, rocky cliffs. In cities and towns, pigeons are dependent on humans to provide them with food, roosting, and nesting sites. These birds nest on window ledges, roofs, in air conditioning units, traffic lights, commercial signs, and under bridges.

### Fun Facts

Pigeons are one of only a small number of species to pass the 'mirror test' – a test of self-recognition. They can also recognize each letter of the human alphabet, differentiate between photographs, and even distinguish different humans within a photograph.

Pigeons can find their way back to the nest from 1,300 miles away.

They are some of the cleanest birds and strongest fliers.

## Green Winged Macaw



Macaws are a group of New World parrots that are long-tailed and often colorful. They are popular in aviculture or as companion parrots, although there are conservation concerns about several species in the wild. The lifespan of a Macaw is on average, 50 years. The Wingspan of this species is approximately 4 feet.

### Diet

Macaws eat a variety of seeds, nuts, fruits, berries and vegetation such as leaf buds in the wild. A higher level of fat seems to be specifically important for certain macaws.

### Breeding

Most macaws are bred regularly in captivity. Breeding season is usually in spring and early summer, although some pairs will breed almost year-round. Clutch size is usually two to four eggs but sometimes more. Incubation period ranges from 23 to 27 days.

### Habitat

Macaws are mainly associated with forests, especially rainforests, but others prefer woodland or savannah-like habitats.

### Fun Facts

Macaws can reach speeds of up to 56 kph (35 mph).

Macaws are very messy eaters. Their extremely strong beaks are perfectly adapted for eating all sorts of nuts and seeds, as seen in their ability to crack open hard-shelled nuts, such as Brazil nuts.

These parrots are not good imitators. As a matter of fact, macaws, living in the wild, do not imitate calls of other birds. Mimicry is common only in captive individuals, who try to imitate human speech.

# Guineas



Guineafowls are birds of the family Numididae in the order Galliformes. They are endemic to Africa and rank among the oldest of the gallinaceous birds. The lifespan of Guineas is approximately 10-15 years.

## Diet

Wild Guineas eat mainly insects, domestic guineas can consume large amounts of insects without affecting garden vegetables or flowers.

## Breeding

When guineas are kept in close confinement, one male may be mated with six to eight females. Guineas usually start laying in March or April and may continue to lay until October. A hen from a carefully managed flock may lay 100 or more eggs a year. Breeders generally produce well for two or three years.

## Habitat

They live in semi open habitats such as savanna or semi deserts, while some, such as the black guineafowl, mainly inhabit forests. Some perch high on treetops.

## Fun Facts

Guineas have been used to control wood ticks and insects such as grasshoppers, flies, and crickets.

Guinea fowl is a strong flyer, but it prefers to run when it needs to escape from predators.

Guineas are active early in the morning and late in the afternoon. It rests during the hottest part of the day and eliminates excess heat via its bare head and neck.

## Peacock (Peafowl)



The peacock, also known as the common peafowl, and blue peafowl, is a peafowl species native to the Indian subcontinent. It has been introduced to many other countries. The term "peacock" is commonly used to refer to birds of both sexes. Technically, only males are peacocks. Females are peahens, and together, they are called peafowl. The Peacock on average weighs approximately 8.8 pounds.

### Diet

A group of peafowl forages on the ground each day for grain, insects, small reptiles and mammals, berries, figs, leaves, seeds, and flower parts.

### Breeding

Suitable males may gather harems of several females, each of which will lay three to five eggs.

### Habitat

Peacocks live in forests, farmland, bushland, and other warm regions with easy access to low trees.

### Fun Facts

The average running speed for peacocks is 10 miles per hour (16 kph).

Peacocks have a bright and dramatic train to attract the attention of peahens, who normally choose their mates based on the size, color and quality of the feathers and train.

When peacocks are first born, they do not have tails, and in fact do not look very impressive until they are around 3 years old.

## Red Golden Pheasants



The Golden Pheasant also known as the Chinese pheasant, and rainbow pheasant, is a gamebird of the order Galliformes (gallinaceous birds) and the family Phasianidae (pheasants). The adult male is 35–41in in length, its tail accounting for two-thirds of the total length. The female (hen) is much less showy, with a duller mottled brown plumage similar to that of the female common pheasant. She is darker and slenderer than the hen of that species, with a proportionately shorter tail 24–31 length).

### Diet

Red golden pheasants enjoy eating seeds, shoots, berries, leaves, and insects.

### Breeding

Hens will lay a clutch of 8-12 eggs in April, and incubation lasts between 22 and 23 days. The male has a metallic call in the breeding season.

### Habitat

The mountainous region of central China was the original, native habitat of the Golden Pheasant, which is usually called the Red Golden when bred and raised in captivity.

### Fun Fact

Red Golden Pheasants favorite snack are mealworms. They will eat from your hand.

While they can fly clumsily in short bursts, they prefer to run and spend most of their time on the ground.

# Turkey



The turkey is a large bird in the genus *Meleagris*, native to North America. The lifespan of a turkey is typically about 10 years.

## Diet

In the spring, turkeys tend to eat leaves and grasses. In the fall, they feed more on fruits, berries, seeds, and insects. Acorns are a crucial source of nutrients for wild turkeys, especially in the wintertime.

## Breeding

Turkeys are notable for their ability, rare amongst higher species, to reproduce asexually. In the absence of a male, female Turkeys are known to produce fertile eggs.

## Habitat

Turkeys preferred habitat is mixed-conifer and hardwood forests, with various open spaces to find food. Despite their large size, they are agile fliers and capable of roosting among high trees, either while foraging for food or avoiding predators.

## Fun Facts

Turkeys make a variety of different sounds such as “purrs,” “yelps,” and “kee-kees,” but the “gobble” call is only done by males during mating season.

Colors can change from red to blue to white, depending on how excited or calm they are. The more intense the colors are, the more intense their emotions.

One certain way to find out a turkey’s sex is by checking their droppings. A male’s poop will be shaped like the letter J, while the female’s is more spiral-shaped.

Turkeys have three-times better vision than humans. They can also see in color and their eyesight covers 270 degrees.

## Whooper Swans



The whooper swan, also known as the common swan, is a large northern hemisphere swan. It is the Eurasian counterpart of the North American trumpeter swan, and the type species for the genus *Cygnus*. The Whooper Swan has the wingspan of about 6.7-9 feet and weighs up to 25 pounds.

### Diet

A Whooper Swan will often feed on fields during the day, eating crops like leftover potatoes and grain, before heading to roost on open water.

### Breeding

Whooper swans breed once a year, their breeding season begins in late April and early May. A single clutch is laid per year. Clutch sizes depend on the age of the pair and the resource availability of their chosen breeding site.

### Habitat

Whooper swans breed and set up nests along the banks of freshwater lakes, pools, shallow rivers, marshes, bogs, and swamps. They prefer habitats with emergent vegetation, which may provide additional protection for nests and newborn cygnets.

### Fun Facts

If kept in captivity, Whooper Swans can live to be 25 years old.

Like other swans, the Whooper swans is largely monogamous, pairing for life (about 6% divorce rate).

Its common name is a reference to its loud “whooping” call. It was previously called elk. The Whooper swan makes several different hooting calls. When flying, it makes a typical low loud “houp-houp”.

# Angus Cattle



The Angus is naturally polled and solid black or red, though the udder may be white. The native color is black, but more recently red colors have emerged. The very first Angus cattle were imported into the U.S. in 1873. George Grant, a Kansas rancher wanted to develop the Angus as his primary breed and introduce it to the region as an ideal beef option. At their first public appearance in the 1873 Missouri Exposition, the Angus cattle were negatively received.

## Diet

The diet of beef cattle consists of grain and hay. Although they are heavier than dairy cattle, beef cattle are fed less because they do not have the high-energy needs of a milk-producing cow.

## Breeding

Calving typically occurs in the spring. After a 9-month gestation, a cow gives birth to one calf. Twins are rare. Calves are generally kept with the mother until weaning age, which is 4-5 months.

## Habitat

The Angus Cattle is known to reside in grasslands as well as farms.

## Fun Facts

Angus Cattle is primarily raised for meat use.

Angus Cattle can be used for milk use.

Angus Cattle have 32 teeth.

## Brahman Bull (Tiny)



A Brahman Bull is a form of cattle originating from *Bos Indicus* cattle from India. Brahman bulls are often used for beef and breeding. Sweet Valley Ranch's Brahman Bulls are strictly pets. Their lifespan is about 15-20 years. On average, males weigh between 1,800-2,500 and females weigh between 1,100-1,500 pounds.

### Diet

Brahman Bulls typically eat hay and grains throughout the day. The amount of hay they eat in a day depends on their body mass and age.

### Breeding

Brahman Bulls begin breeding at an older age than many other breeds of cattle. Most of the time, they are about 2 years of age before they begin to breed. Mature bulls can sire up to 40 calves during a 60–90-day breeding period.

### Habitat

Brahman bulls prefer to be in the sun and are perfect for hot and humid weather.

### Fun Facts

Brahman Bulls lack retina receptors so they can only see yellow, green, blue, and violet colors.

The hump on a Brahman Bull's back is used to store food and water as well as fat. Brahman bulls have active sweat glands. They also produce oily secretions that repel insects.

Our large male Brahman Bull, Tiny, is the official mascot for Sweet Valley Ranch. Tiny weighs about 2,500 pounds! His favorite snack is whole wheat bread.

# Highland Cattle



The Highland is a Scottish breed of rustic cattle. It originated in the Scottish Highlands and the Outer Hebrides islands of Scotland. They have long horns and a long shaggy coat. It is a hardy breed, bred to withstand the intemperate conditions in the region. The Highland Cattle breed typically lasts 20 years. Sweet Valley Ranch also has High Park cattle which is a cross between the Highland cattle and White Park cattle.

## Diet

Highland Cattle are fantastic scavengers; they will eat almost anything if it has food value, including poison ivy, honeysuckle vines, tree leaves they can reach and cedar trees

## Breeding

They do a lot of growing between 2 and three years old. It is recommended to wait until 24 to 27 months to breed heifers for the first time. Highland heifers begin estrus about the same age as other breeds.

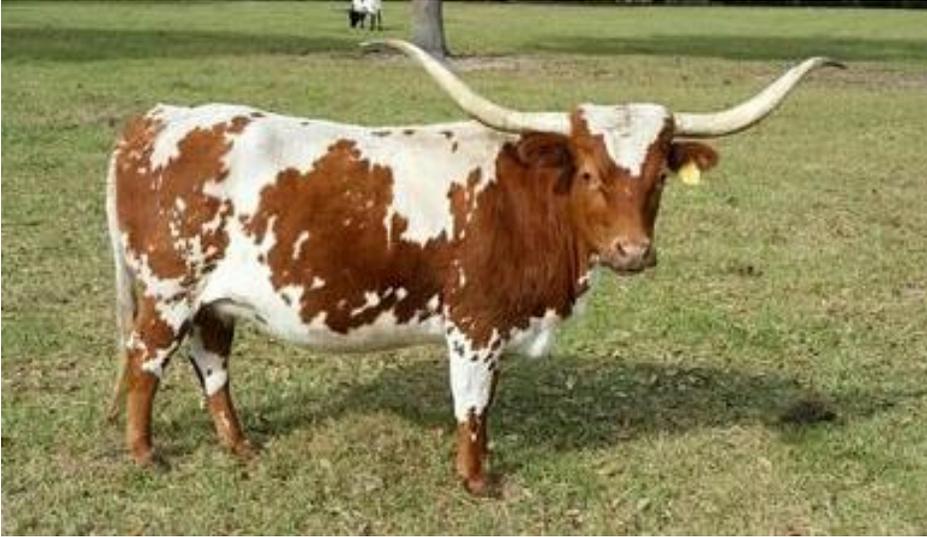
## Habitat

Highland cattle inhabit wet and mountainous grasslands.

## Fun Facts

Both the bulls and cows have horns

## Miniature Texas Longhorn



Miniature Texas Longhorns are descendants of standard sized Texas Longhorns that have been selectively bred to reduce their size. For them to be considered miniature they must be less than 42 inches in height.

Miniature Texas Longhorns are a recent breed however they have become popular due to their compatibility with small acreage farms.

### Diet

Miniature Texas Longhorns eat hay, pastures, silage, straw, wheats and oats.

### Breeding

Miniature Texas Longhorns are created by mating the smallest Texas Longhorns.

### Fun Facts

Miniature Texas Longhorns did not originate from Texas.  
The longest known horn length is 129.5 inches, (3.29 m).

## Great Pyrenees



The Great Pyrenees is a large, thick coated, and powerful working dog breed. Great Pyrenees are known to protect goats, chicks, ducks, as well as any other farm animals. They originated from the Pyrenees Mountains, between France and Spain. This beautiful dog breed generally weighs up to 130lbs and can get up to the height of 32 inches. Their life expectancy is from 10-12 years.

### Diet

Our Great Pyrenees eat a nutrient based diet consisting of beef, chicken, lamb, and pork. They will typically eat 2-3 cups of dry food twice a day on their size, weight, age, build, metabolism, and activity level.

### Breeding

Great Pyrenees dogs can be bred when they are approximately 2 years old. The average litter size is approximately 7-10 pups. The birthing process typically takes between 6-10 hours.

### Habitat

Great Pyrenees dog breeds prefer to stay outside, and they are most comfortable in colder temperatures.

### Fun Facts

Great Pyrenees dogs are nocturnal by nature. They were bred to guard the flock at night while the other animals and shepherds were sleeping, and predators roamed about. Standing guard isn't the only job that they have had. Our large male Great Pyrenees is greatly known by the name "Bear". Since we've had Bear, we have not lost a single animal resulting in predator attacks.

## Miniature Australian Shepherd



Miniature Australian Shepherds are known as a small herding breed. They are highly intelligent and often trained for dog sports. The dog breed originates from California and was developed in the late 1960's. Fully grown dogs typically weigh between 20-31lbs and are about 14-18 inches tall. The lifespan of a Miniature Australian Shepherd is about 13 years on average.

### Diet

Miniature Australian Shepherds diet consists of dry food as well as canned food. The serving size is determined by the weight and age of the dog.

### Breeding

Miniature Australian Shepherds begin breeding between 18-24 months. The normal gestation period is about 63 days from conception. The litter size of a Miniature Australian Shepherds can vary between 5 and 9 puppies.

### Habitat

Miniature Australian Shepherds enjoy colder weather but cannot live outside; hence our dogs are kept in climate-controlled buildings.

### Fun Facts

Miniature Australian Shepherds are highly intelligent and can perform as service dogs as well as therapy dogs.

Dogs of this breed can have two different eye colors.

When they aren't kept busy, they will bark or chew on your belongings.

## Camel (Abdul)



Camels were domesticated more than 3,000 years ago, and to this day, humans depend on them for transport across arid environments. They can easily carry an extra 200 pounds while walking 20 miles a day in the harsh desert. Camels can travel as fast as horses but can also endure legendary periods of time without food or water.

### Diet

Camels are diurnal and spend their days eating. They are very clever at finding food in their harsh desert environment. Each half of the split upper lip moves independently, so camels can get near the ground for eating short grass. These tough but flexible lips can break off and eat vegetation such as thorns or salty plants; they even eat fish.

### Breeding

After a gestation of 12 to 14 months, a newborn camel can walk beside the mother within half an hour. Mother and young return to the herd in about two weeks. Camel calves nurse for 10 to 18 months, depending on whether it is a Bactrian or dromedary camel and the availability of food.

### Fun Facts

Camels have three sets of eyelids and two rows of eyelashes to keep sand out of their eyes.

Camels have thick lips which let them forage for thorny plants other animals cannot eat.

Camels can completely shut their nostrils during sandstorms. Thanks to thick pads of skin on their chest and knees, camels can comfortably sit in extremely hot sand.

## East African Crowned Cranes



The grey crowned crane, also known as the African crowned crane, golden crested crane, golden-crowned crane, East African crane, East African crowned crane, Eastern crowned crane, or South African crane, is a bird in the crane family, Gruidae. East African Crowned Cranes typically grow up to the height of 3.3 feet when fully grown.

### Diet

Crowned cranes are omnivorous feeding on plants, worms, insects, lizards, and small mammals.

### Breeding

East African crowned cranes are monogamous and pair for life. During breeding season, both males and females participate in graceful and elaborate mating dances. Once paired, mated couples build a large circular nest, made of grasses and vegetation, in a secluded area of marshy ground.

### Habitat

This species of bird prefers wetlands with nearby grasslands and cultivated land near rivers and lakes.

### Fun Facts

The chicks of the East African Crowned Cranes are 'precocial' which means they can run as soon as they hatch.

Crowned cranes are usually found in pairs but have been seen alone and in small flocks of 3 to 20 individuals.

A successful pair of mated crowned cranes keeps its family group together for almost a year. After that, the young birds often form their own flock and spend much of their time feeding in fields.

## Patagonian Mara



The Patagonian mara is a relatively large rodent in the mara genus *Dolichotis*. It is also known as the Patagonian cavy, Patagonian hare, or dillaby. This herbivorous, somewhat rabbit-like animal is found in open and semi open habitats in Argentina, including large parts of Patagonia. Patagonian Maras grow to be 18 pounds and have a lifespan of approximately 14 years.

### Diet

Patagonian maras are herbivorous, primarily consuming grasses. They also frequently consume cactuses, as well as some seeds, fruits, and flowers.

### Breeding

Patagonian maras have a unique breeding strategy. Estrus occurs three to four times each year, for a window of only 30 minutes. Gestation lasts around 100 days, with the female typically giving birth to one to three well-developed young.

### Habitat

Patagonian maras inhabit central and southern Argentina. They prefer arid grasslands and brush lands with a great deal of open space. The home range of a mara pair can fluctuate greatly depending upon food availability.

### Fun Facts

Patagonian maras can run at speeds up to 29 km/h (18 mph). When threatened, Patagonian maras can take long leaps of up to 6 feet in the air. Patagonians can move around by various ways: they can gallop, walk, or hop like rabbits. Their front legs are shorter than the hind legs. They are known to bounce on all their 4 legs, making a movement called 'stotting'.

## Water Buffalo



The water buffalo, also called the domestic water buffalo or Asian water buffalo, is a large bovid originating in the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and China. A male Water Buffalo can grow to be 4.4 feet tall, and the female can grow up to 4.2 feet tall with a body mass of approximately 660-1,200 pounds.

### Diet

Water Buffalo are herbivores, meaning they eat only vegetation. Their favorite foods are grass and herbs, but water buffalos will also eat aquatic plants. Water Buffalos eat approximately 25 pounds of plants throughout a day.

### Breeding

A Water Buffalo usually has only one calf at a time. The female will carry the calf for a gestation period of 9 to 11 months before giving birth. Once the calf is born, it will stay with its mother for around three years. Mating season of a Water Buffalo takes place during the rainy season.

### Habitat

Water buffalo spend much of their day submerged in the muddy waters of tropical and subtropical forests. Their wide-splayed hooved feet prevent them from sinking too deeply in the mud and allow them to move about in wetlands and swamps.

### Fun Facts

Though domesticated buffalo are gentle enough to be milked (and even ridden), wild buffalo are notoriously aggressive and aren't afraid to face off with their only natural predators: tigers and lions. When threatened, they can reach speeds of 30 mph!

Milk of Water Buffalo contains the greatest percent of fats compared to other species of wild cows.

Water Buffalo can survive up to 9 years in the wild and up to 25 years in captivity.

## Zebra (Sebastian)



Zebras are African equines with distinctive black-and-white striped coats. Zebras share the genus *Equus* with horses and asses, the three groups being the only living members of the family Equidae. Zebras can reach lengths up to 8.9 feet with the weight of approximately 880 pounds.

### Diet

Specifically, zebras prefer to eat grass that is green and short, but in a pinch, they will eat all kinds of grass. Zebras need a lot of water.

### Breeding

Zebras reproduce resulting in the birth of one to two foals within 360 to 390 days, zebras do not have a set breeding schedule and can give birth any time during the year with the most recorded births being in January.

### Habitat

They have a wide range in east and southern Africa. They usually live in treeless grasslands and savanna woodlands and are absent from deserts, rainforests, and wetlands.

### Fun Facts

Some scientists think that stripes keep zebras cooler. The dark stripes soak up more sunlight than the light ones.

The two theories might be linked. Biting flies prefer hot temperatures, so they may be less likely to bite a cooler zebra.

Zebras bunch together to confuse colorblind predators, such as lions, which mistake the pattern as grass.

## Zebu



A zebu, sometimes known as indicine cattle or humped cattle, is a species or subspecies of domestic cattle originating in South Asia. Zebu are characterized by a fatty hump on their shoulders, a large dewlap, and sometimes drooping ears. A Zebu can reach the weight of 2,400 pounds with the height of 4.9 feet tall.

### Diet

Zebus are grazers. Their diet mainly consists of grass. Other than that, zebus can consume seeds, leaves and flowers.

### Breeding

Once impregnated by the dominant bull, the female carries a single calf for approximately nine months at a time.

### Habitat

Zebus are the only type of cattle that lives in tropical rainforests. They can be also found in open plains. Zebus originate from South Asia, but due to their ability to survive in hot and humid environments, they have been easily introduced to the tropical parts of Africa and South America.

### Fun Facts

Zebu can reach the speed of 25 miles per hour when it is faced with danger. Their humid, jungle upbringing also featured another interesting challenge... parasites. Parasites and diseases thrive in humid and warm environments, so Zebu cattle are particularly resistant to parasites and other illnesses that different cattle breeds are not resistant to.

Zebus are featured on the official stamp of Madagascar.

## Zedonk



A Zedonk is a cross breed between a male zebra and a female donkey. A Zedonk typically weighs 500-700 and usually is 5 feet in height. A Zedonk looks like a donkey but with Zebra patterns and stripes on the legs and feet.

### Diet

Zedonks are herbivores, eating only plant material. The vast majority of their diet consists of grasses and herbs that grow on the ground. They have flat, broad teeth for grazing and grinding down the fibrous grass.

### Breeding

Female donkeys give birth to a zedonk after 12 months of pregnancy.

### Habitat

Zebra-donkey hybrids are exceedingly rare. In South Africa, they occur where zebras and donkeys are found near each other.

### Fun Facts

Zedonks are extremely powerful and fast animals that can reach the speed of 35 miles per hour. It is also extremely healthy and resistant to many pests and diseases (this trait is inherited from zebra)

Zedonks have a large head and long ears, just like a donkey. Black mane, inherited from zebra, runs from the neck to the black-colored tail.

Zedonks have an average lifespan of 15 to 25 years.

# Donkey



Donkeys, also called burros and asses, are found throughout the world. They are members of the Equidae family, which also includes horses and zebras. They look a lot like their cousins, but have long, floppy ears and tend to be stockier than horses or zebras. Sweet Valley Ranch also has miniature donkeys.

## Diet

Donkeys require a diet high in fiber and low in protein, sugars, starch/carbohydrates, and calories. The donkey diet should consist of mainly good quality barley straw or oat straw (barley straw is best) and carefully restricted access to grass.

## Habitat

Wild donkeys are only found in deserts and savannahs in northern Africa from Morocco to Somalia, in the Arabian Peninsula and in the Middle East.

## Breeding

Normal donkey foals have reportedly been born at 10 ½ months up to 14 months of gestation. The estrous cycle of jennets ranges from 23-30 days, whereas the mare has a slightly shorter cycle of 21-25 days.

## Fun Facts

Donkeys can live for over 50 years.

Donkeys are extraordinarily strong and intelligent.

A donkey is stronger than a horse of the same size.

Donkeys have an incredible memory – they can recognize areas and other donkeys they were with up to 25 years ago.

## Fainting Goats



The myotonic goat or Tennessee fainting goat is an American breed of meat goat. It is characterized by myotonia congenita, a hereditary condition which may cause it to stiffen or fall over when startled.

### Diet

Fainting goats enjoy typical goat foods like hay and grains. They prefer a varied diet of grasses, flowers, leaves, woody stems. You will also need to provide free access to a plain salt block as well as a mineral block.

### Breeding

The breeding season for Fainting goats typically occurs between August and January, but it is not uncommon for a doeling, or nanny, Fainting goat to become pregnant during the spring or early summer months.

### Habitat

Generally, people keep these goats on farmland or pasture with plenty of grass and shrubbery to eat. However, some also keep them in forests, mountainous regions, marshes, woodlands, and more.

### Fun Facts

Fainting goats suffer from a genetic muscle condition called Myotonia Congenita, which can also occur in humans. When a goat is startled, his muscles freeze for up to 20 seconds, which can cause him to tip over and appear to faint. They never lose consciousness.

Myotonia Congenita only affects the muscles, not the nervous system or the brain. As the goats grow up, they learn to lean against something or even totter around on stiff legs without falling over.

# Horses



Horses and humans have an ancient relationship. Asian nomads probably domesticated the first horses some 4,000 years ago, and the animals remained essential to many human societies until the advent of the engine. Sweet Valley Ranch has the following breeds of horses: Quarter, Appaloosa, Tennessee Walking, Paint, Draft and Spotted Saddle. Also, we have Miniature horses.

## Diet

Horses are herbivores. This means they only eat vegetation. Typically, horses eat grass, but domesticated horses are often fed bran, rolled oats, barley and hay, as well.

## Breeding

The mother horse, or mare, carries her foal for 11 months. Most mares give birth in the spring to a single baby (foal), sometimes twins. Mares produce milk for their young and will feed them for several months. Within 1 – 2 hours of birth a foal can stand up and walk.

## Habitat

Domesticated, or tamed, horses can live in almost any habitat, but wild horses prefer plains, prairies, and steppes for many reasons.

## Fun Facts

Horses can run shortly after birth.

Horses have around 205 bones in their skeleton.

Horses have bigger eyes than any other mammal that lives on land.

Horses gallop at around 27 mph

## Rabbits



Rabbits are small mammals in the family Leporidae of the order Lagomorpha. *Oryctolagus cuniculus* includes the European rabbit species and its descendants, the world's 305 breeds of domestic rabbit. The lifespan of a rabbit is typically 9 years. Here at Sweet Valley Ranch, we have a variety of breeds including Netherland and Lionhead.

### Diet

Fresh, clean drinking water and good quality hay and grass should make up most of the your rabbits' diet. A rabbit's digestive system needs hay or grass to function properly, so a healthy supply is extremely important.

### Breeding

Rabbits can become pregnant early in life, with some smaller breeds starting their reproductive life stage as early as 4 months of age. A female rabbit is fertile for all but about 3 days per month and will produce an egg for insemination.

### Habitat

Rabbits live in a variety of environments, including deserts, swamps, marshes, forests, grasslands, and prairies. Most rabbits do not dig tunnels or burrows, but they will borrow a burrow abandoned by another animal. They will use these burrows to escape bad weather or an enemy in hot pursuit.

### Fun Facts

A Rabbit's big ears are not just for listening! They also help regulate the rabbit's body temperatures.

# Llama



A Llama is a domesticated South American camelid, commonly used as a pack animal by Andean Cultures since the Pre-Columbian Era. Llamas, on average, weigh about 290-440lbs and are about 5'6-5'9 in height. The lifespan is typically about 20 years or more if in good health.

## Diet

Llamas eat a diet of grass, hay, and grains. Grains, particularly, are fed to llamas to aid in their growth. Grains also help to give nutrients to nursing females.

## Breeding

Llamas typically begin to breed at approximately 24 months. A full gestation period is 350 day after conception (11 ½ months). At the 350-day period, a single baby llama is born. Llama's do not have a heat cycle therefore they can breed anytime of the year.

## Habitat

The llamas' native habitat is the cold and dry Andes Mountains. Modernly, they can now be found in grasslands and farmlands. Their coat keeps them warm and comfortable in the winter, but they do not like the heat. When caring for a llama, they must be well hydrated and cooled to ensure they do not overheat.

## Fun Facts

Llamas often communicate by humming.

Llamas tend to spit or kick when agitated.

Llamas are vegetarian and have very efficient digestive systems.

Llama manure has no odor.

Sweet Valley Ranch shears our llamas during April each year.

## Pony



A pony is a small horse. A pony is typically under the height of 14.2 hands high. There are many different breeds. Ponies typically weigh approximately 200 pounds.

### Diet

Ponies eat grass, hay, and grain on occasion. A pony typically requires a daily ration of forage equal to 2% of body weight. They may need a mineral salt block if they lack essential minerals in their diet.

### Breeding

Ponies and horses can breed. They belong to the same species and it can be a good option if you want a smaller horse. However, this might cause complications during the birth of the pony if the mare breeds with a much larger horse.

### Habitat

In the wild, ponies often live in harsh, bleak areas such as moors and fields, where they can survive with little food. Ponies are known for their sure-footedness. This enables them to travel across rugged, uneven ground.

### Fun Fact

Ponies have thicker tails and manes than regular-sized horses.

The average pony will drink between twenty and thirty gallons of water every day.

Ponies, like horses, have two blind spots where they cannot see.

One blind spot is behind them and if they sense someone or something behind them, they will give a powerful kick.

# Pigs



Pigs are mammals with stocky bodies, flat snouts that can move independently of their heads, small eyes and large ears. They are highly intelligent, social animals, and are found all over the world. Pigs are in the Suidae family, which includes eight genera and 16 species.

## Diet

Pigs are omnivores, which means that they consume both plants and animals. In the wild, they are foraging animals, primarily eating leaves, roots, fruits, and flowers, in addition to some insects and fish.

## Habitat

Wild pigs typically live-in grasslands, wetlands, rain forests, savannas, scrublands and temperate forests. All pigs wallow in mud whenever they have the chance, as it helps them to regulate their body temperature and discourages parasites.

## Breeding

A gilt (a young female hog) can be bred at five or six months of age. A yearling (or older) boar can service 50 sows in stalls or 35 to 40 pasturing females.

## Fun Facts

In their natural state, pigs are exceptionally clean animals.

They are much more tolerant of colder temperatures than heat.

When they are trained piglets can learn their names at just two to three weeks old.

Pigs use grunts to communicate with each other.

Pigs have excellent memories.

## Pot Bellied-Pigs



Vietnamese Pot-bellied is the exonym for the Lon I or I pig, an endangered traditional Vietnamese breed of small domestic pig. The I is uniformly black and has short legs and a low-hanging belly, from which the name derives. The average weight for a Pot Bellied-Pig is about 110 pounds. The lifespan of this breed of pigs is approximately 14-21 years.

### Diet

Potbellied pigs (aka pot belly pigs) are omnivores, so their natural diet in the wild would include roots, veggies, nuts, seeds, berries, worms, insects, raw eggs, and other little critters.

### Breeding

Most female potbellied pigs reach sexual maturity between the ages of 3 to 4 months of age. Female potbellies come into heat every 21 days. Heat can last 6 days, and the males should be sexually mature within 90 days.

### Fun Facts

Potty Belly Pigs' skin lacks hair, making them sensitive to the sun. In the wild they wallow in the mud to stay cool and protect their skin.

Pot Belly Pigs have poor vision but excellent senses of smell and hearing.

Though they may not look it after splashing around in the mud on hot summer days, potbellied pigs are exceptionally clean.

## Savanna Goat



The white Savanna Goat breed was developed from indigenous goats of South Africa. The female goat, on average, weighs about 125-200lbs and the male weighs about 200-250lbs. Savanna Goats typically live for about 11-12 years or longer depending on their health.

### Diet

The daily food intake of a Savanna Goat includes grass, hay, bushes, and feeding grains. Goats tend to be more interested in the grains during the winter. Grains provide more nutrients to help their growth and health.

### Breeding

Once a male and female have mated, it takes about 5 months of pregnancy before the baby goat is born. The doe can have up to 6 kids per litter, but it is more common for them to have 3.

### Habitat

Savanna Goats do well in colder climates if not windy or wet. Whenever temperatures increase above 86 degrees, goats may begin experiencing mild heat stress.

### Fun Facts

The Savanna Goats have many great qualities but the most important is that their skin, horns, and hooves have black pigmentation, to protect them from the sun.

Goats were one of the first animals to be tamed by humans.

Goats do not have teeth on their upper jaw.

The Savanna Goat was the first animal at Sweet Valley Ranch

Sweet Valley Ranch is one of 3 Savanna Goat breeders in North Carolina.

# Sheep



Sheep are quadrupedal, ruminant mammals typically kept as livestock. The Sheep can grow to be 4.3 feet tall and can weigh up to 330 pounds. The lifespan of a Sheep typically lasts up to 10-12 years.

## Diet

Sheep are herbivores and eat mainly plant material. In the wild or when living in pastures, sheep spend a good part of their day grazing on grass and weeds. Sheep that live in an enclosure with no grass to graze are often fed hay or silage. Silage includes foods such as fermented hay or corn.

## Breeding

In their natural state, sheep are seasonal breeders. Offspring are born at the time most favorable for their survival. In some domestic sheep, the breeding season has been altered both naturally and through the use of hormones.

## Habitat

Sheep are found worldwide in association with humans. They live in different habitats ranging from mountain forests to desert conditions.

## Fun Facts

Most sheep have large, curling horns made from keratin – the same element that's present in human fingernails.

Sheep have excellent peripheral vision. Their large, rectangular pupils allow them to see almost 360 degrees and they can also see behind themselves without turning their heads.

Lambs walk just minutes after they are born.

## Aldabra Tortoise

Bonnie- 55 LB Female, Clyde- 70 LB Old Male



An Aldabra tortoise weighing 672 pounds ) is the world's largest free-roaming tortoise ever recorded. They are found on Aldabra Island, one of the Seychelles northeast of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean.

Aldabra tortoises can live for over 200 years. They will reach a total weight of 550 pounds.

### Diet

Though it feeds primarily on vegetation, the Aldabra tortoise is flexible and opportunistic in its diet.

### Breeding

Sexual maturity is determined by size rather than age; most species begin to reproduce when they reach approximately half their full-grown size, usually around 25 years of age. Typically, the females lay between 4 to 14 eggs, of which less than one half are fertile. In healthy, uncrowded populations, a second clutch (laying) within the same breeding season is likely.

### Habitat

They primarily are found in grassland areas.

### Fun Fact

Bonnie and Clyde, have an 8ft by 16ft house that they share with a pair of Burmese Star tortoises. The house is heated, and they are able to listen to their favorite music (Soft Jazz). They travel to Raleigh, NC to see a doctor that specializes in reptiles. Sweet Valley Ranch will have to purchase a special lift once they reach over 450 pounds. Mr. and Mrs. Surgeon are not worried about this expenditure since it will be 165 years from now!!!

## Argentine Black and White Tegu



The Argentine Black and White Tegu is classified as Reptilia (Reptile) and is native to South America. They can weigh up to 20 pounds. The male Tegu can grow as long as five feet. The female is significantly smaller in size, with a length of 3 feet from nose to tail. The Argentine Black and White Tegu can live from 15-20 years or longer if in good health.

### Diet

The Argentine Black and White Tegu is typically fed wet dog food, small mice, bananas, and eggs. The diet of a Tegu depends on the weight, health, and age.

### Breeding

The Argentine Black and White Tegu typically reach their reproductive maturity after their second year of brumation or when they grow to a length of 12 inches from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail. The female Tegu, on average, lays about 35 eggs per year.

### Habitat

The Argentine Black and White Tegu is found in savannas and disrupted habitats such as forest clearings and roadside rows. They are terrestrial lizards that rarely climb more than a few feet off the ground but are known to be powerful swimmers.

### Fun Facts

Tegus have many solid lines and are black and white with solid bands of white. Fewer solid white bands on their body indicates an older aged Tegu. Some Tegu species can eat venomous snakes and frogs without visible side effects. When kept in captivity, they are able to recognize their owners and form a close bond with them.

## Ball Python



The ball python, also called the royal python, is a python species native to West and Central Africa. A female adult Ball Python averages 3-5 feet long while a male averages 2-3 feet. The female Ball Python are typically much larger than males. The lifespan of a Ball Python kept in captivity can live up to 30 years.

### Diet

At Sweet Valley Ranch, we feed our Ball Python medium to large sized mice depending on their size, weight, and age.

### Breeding

Ball Pythons have long reproductive lives that last from about 27 months to 30 years. The breeding season is primarily from mid-September through mid-November, correlating with the minor rainy season. A clutch is from 1 to 11 eggs.

### Habitat

Ball Pythons are found in grasslands and open forests, and in areas with some cover. They are typically found near open water so they can cool themselves during hot weather.

### Fun Facts

A Ball Python can have over 100 teeth!

Ball Pythons make good hunters because of its skin. The camouflage helps it to move around and not be detected easily. They are picky eaters and are willing to wait for prey that will keep them satisfied for weeks.

A Ball Python can be asexual, reproducing without contact from a male.

Sometimes the eggs hatch and they are ALWAYS males and identical to their mother.

## Carpet Python



The Carpet Python, is a large snake of the family Pythonidae found in Australia, New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, and the northern Solomon Islands. The Carpet Python's size can vary between 6-9 feet long while weighing up to 30 pounds. In the jungle, Carpet Python's lifespan can range between 15-20 years, but can live up to 30 years in captivity.

### Diet

At Sweet Valley Ranch, we feed our Carpet Python medium to large sized mice depending on their size, weight, and age.

### Breeding

Most Carpet Python breeders cycle them on a yearly basis. Gradually reducing the nighttime low temperatures (aim for 65 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit) and daily photoperiod (10 to 12 hours) will start the breeding process. This is usually done in the fall. Carpet Pythons typically lay 20 eggs at a time.

### Habitat

Carpet Pythons live in a variety of habitats from eastern coastal rainforests to central desert areas.

### Fun Facts

Carpet pythons generally feed at night. Like most snake species, they are ambush hunters waiting for their prey to pass by. Since it feeds mostly at night, it uses heat-sensitive pits on its bottom jaw to sense and track its prey's body heat. Armed with 80 backward facing teeth, a bite from a large Carpet Python has the capacity to cause substantial lacerations and punctures.

## Burmese Star Tortoise

### Pebbles- Female, Bamm-Bamm- Male



The Burmese star tortoise is a critically endangered tortoise species, native to the dry, deciduous of Myanmar (Burma). It's close to extinction in Myanmar, as it is eaten by the native Burmese. It is a striking medium-sized land tortoise with an oval-shaped carapace (top shell). Females are larger than males, with carapaces reaching at least 30cm (11.8 in). The carapace is dark brown or black with six or fewer radiating stripes extending from the yellow center of each scute (section of the carapace).

#### Diet

They feed on vegetation, primarily grass and mushrooms. They also eat fruits and possibly larvae and insects.

#### Breeding

In captivity, the female tortoise lays four to five eggs in a clutch. Captive breeding of this species is quite difficult.

#### Habitat

The Burmese star tortoise inhabits thorn scrub, pastures, and dry deciduous forests (forests characterized by trees that shed their leaves in colder months).

#### Fun Fact

Pebbles and Bamm-Bamm share a house with our Aldabra tortoises (Bonnie and Clyde). They were the first reptiles at Sweet Valley Ranch when they were 2 weeks old in 2016. Their hard-shelled carapace has bumps where the yellow lines intersect to create stars. Although tortoises cannot swim, they love to relax in their personal hot tub for a spa day!!!

## Corn Snake



The corn snake is a North American species of rat snake that subdues its small prey by constriction. It is found throughout the southeastern and central United States. Corn Snakes are named for the pattern of their belly scales that resembles maize, an ancestor of modern-day corn. Corn Snakes can grow from to 2-6 feet long as a full adult with a body mass of approximately 2 pounds.

### Diet

At Sweet Valley Ranch, we feed our Corn Snakes small mice every 10-14 days.

### Breeding

Breeding begins at the start of spring. When a female is ready to mate, place her in a breeding enclosure and mist it to ensure the spread of female hormones. When the male is placed in the enclosure, he will usually take immediate notice of the female and mating will ensue. On average, Corn Snakes typically lay 10-34 eggs during each pregnancy.

### Habitat

Wild corn snakes prefer habitats such as overgrown fields, forest openings, trees, palmetto flatwoods, and abandoned or seldom-used buildings and farms.

### Fun Facts

While not venomous, corn snakes will bite.

The corn snake is mainly nocturnal and hides during the day under cover of loose tree bark, in animal burrows, or in old, abandoned buildings.

Corn snakes are constrictors, wrapping themselves around prey to squeeze and subdue it before swallowing it whole. Corn snakes live up to 23 years in human care, but their lifespan is shorter in the wild.

## Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman



Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman is a small crocodilian in the alligator family from northern and central South America. It is found in Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela. A dwarf Caiman typically weighs 15 pounds and on average, is about 5.2 feet for males. Females are typically only 3.9 feet. The dwarf caiman is the smallest member of the crocodilian family.

### Diet

The diet of the 3 Dwarf Caiman at Sweet Valley Ranch includes small goldfish and crickets. The amount of goldfish and crickets given depends on the health and age of each Caiman.

### Breeding

The breeding of the species is seasonal and takes place once a year.

### Habitat

Dwarf Caiman can be found living near rivers, swamps, and savanna areas. They prefer clean, clear, and fast-moving water in forested areas with waterfalls and rapids. Cuvier's dwarf caiman enjoy cool freshwater.

### Fun Facts

Under human care, dwarf caimans can live up to 60 years!

Cuvier's dwarf caimans can swim at a speed of 30 miles per hour.

The teeth of dwarf caimans are often used as amulets. Some cultures believe that this provides protection from snake bites.

Cuvier's dwarf caiman are ambush predators. They remain motionless and wait for their prey to come within striking distance.

## Green Iguana



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The green iguana, also known as the American iguana or the common green iguana, is a large, arboreal, mostly herbivorous species of lizard of the genus *Iguana*. The green iguana on average, is about 12-17 inches long. An adult male iguana weighs about 8.8 pounds and the female weighs anywhere from 2.6-6.6 pounds.

### Diet

At Sweet Valley Ranch, we feed our beautiful green iguana lettuce, spinach, and fruits. The amount of food depends on the weight and age.

### Breeding

Most green iguanas reach sexual maturity between three and four years of age, although maturity can be reached earlier. Iguanas tend to breed in the dry season, ensuring that young hatch in the wet season when food is more readily available.

### Habitat

The Green Iguana is commonly found in rainforests of Northern Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean Islands, and Southern Brazil.

### Fun Facts

Green Iguanas are fast and can run up to 21 miles per hour.

Iguanas have a so-called “third eye” on the top of their heads. Known as the parietal “eye”, it looks like a pale scale and cannot discern shapes or color—but does sense light and movement, helping iguanas anticipate predatory birds from above.

Iguanas can detach their tails and they can grow another!

## Red Tail Boa



A Red Tail Boa is a large rainforest snake that resides in Central and South America. Red tail Boas are nonvenomous snakes and kill their prey by using constriction. They get their names from the reddish tint of the scales on their tails. The weight of an adult female Red Tail Boa is typically 22 pounds while an adult male is about 33 pounds. The length of a female Boa can range to about 6.9-9.8 feet while a male only reaches 5.9-7.9 feet long.

### Diet

The Red Tail Boa is fed small and medium sized mice and eats their prey by striking and constricting. At Sweet Valley Ranch, we feed our Red Tail Boa every 10-14 days. The eating process can take between 5-25 minutes, on average.

### Breeding

Red tailed boas can breed when they are younger, but it is best to wait until they are about 3 years old. It is also recommended that standard-sized female Boas weigh at least 8 pounds before you attempt to breed them.

### Habitat

Red Tail Boas are native to Brazil and nearby areas where they spend their time in rain forests and lowlands. While their environments vary, they are considered moderately arboreal.

### Fun Facts

If a Red Tail Boa is kept in good health, the lifespan can reach up to 30 years! Red Tail Boas give birth to live young (ovoviviparous). The Red Tail Boa has small, hooked teeth which is used to grab prey. It then constricts its' prey by coiling around it until it dies.

## Snapping Turtle



The common snapping turtle is a large freshwater turtle of the family Chelydridae. Its natural range extends from southeastern Canada, southwest to the edge of the Rocky Mountains, as far east as Nova Scotia and Florida. A snapping turtle, on average, weighs about 23 pounds and their lifespan is approximately 11-45 years.

### Diet

At Sweet Valley Ranch, we feed our Snapping Turtle goldfish. The number of goldfish given is dependent upon their weight and size.

### Breeding

Snapping Turtles mate between April to November and are most active in during warmer months.

### Habitat

Snapping Turtles live only in fresh or brackish water. They prefer water with muddy bottoms and lots of vegetation so they can hide easily. Snapping Turtles spend almost all their time in water but go on land to lay their eggs in sandy soil.

### Fun Facts

Hibernating snapping turtles do not breathe for more than six months in northern climates, since ice covers their hibernating site. These turtles can get oxygen by pushing their head out of the mud and allowing gas exchange to take place through the membranes of their mouth and throat.

Snapping turtles have a protrusion at the end of their tongue that much look like a worm. They held out their tongue so fish can mistake it as a worm and get captured by the turtle if the fish comes too near it.

Sweet Valley Ranch's Snapping Turtle was found hanging out by the pond by Jeff Woodrey, Attractions Manager.

## Koi Fish



There are 24 koi fish varieties and counting. Koi fish were developed by farmers who noticed their bright color patches and bred them to get the beautiful fish we have today. Koi fish can get sun burn so make sure they have some shade on sunny days!

### Diet

Koi fish are omnivores who will eat just about anything you give them, from small bugs and insects to plants and algae at the bottom of the fish pond, to store-bought koi fish food, including lettuce and watermelon.

### Breeding

Female koi fish can lay as many as 50,000 eggs during one breeding season. Koi prefer to deposit their eggs in vegetation normally found in the shallow water of ponds. Plants like hornwort, water hyacinths or water lettuce or even artificial spawning mops or ropes, provide an ideal habitat for them.

### Habitat

Koi fish's brilliant colors make it harder for them to survive because it attracts predators such as cats, birds of prey, and raccoons. As a domestic variant of the wild Amur carp, koi fish do not have a natural habitat. However, people often keep them in large fishponds. Some people also keep younger individuals in smaller aquariums. Though they are not wild, these fish can and do survive in wild freshwater habitats such as lakes and ponds.

### Fun Facts

Koi is the National Fish of Japan and can live for centuries. The longest living koi fish, Hanaka was 226 years old when she died.