

Specialized Reptile Breeders

This is the gold standard. A breeder who specializes in African plated lizards or armadillo lizards is your best bet. They will have in-depth knowledge of the species, will have raised the lizards from birth, and will be able to advise you on their specific care. Look for breeders who are active in reptile forums, attend reptile expos, and have a positive reputation. This is the most reliable source for a healthy captive-bred **Armadillo Girdled Lizard for sale**.

Reptile Expos and Shows

Attending a major reptile expo is an excellent way to see the animals in person before you buy. You can inspect the lizard for signs of health (clear eyes, healthy skin, alertness) and speak directly to the breeder. You can also compare prices from different vendors. When you find an **Armadillo Girdled Lizard for sale** at an expo, ask to see the animal handle it (if the breeder allows) and ask about its feeding schedule and origin.

Online Marketplaces and Forums

Websites like MorphMarket and dedicated reptile forums often have listings for this species. However, you must exercise extreme caution when buying a live animal online. Look for detailed photos and videos of the specific animal for sale. Ask for references and proof of captive breeding. A legitimate seller listing an **Armadillo Girdled Lizard for sale** online will have a clear, verifiable history and will ship using a reliable, temperature-controlled reptile courier service.

Exotic Pet Stores

Some high-end, specialized exotic pet stores may occasionally carry Armadillo Girdled Lizards. However, their supply chain can be less transparent than a direct breeder. If you see an **Armadillo Girdled Lizard for sale** in a pet store, ask the staff where they sourced it and if it is captive-bred. Be wary of general pet stores that do not specialize in reptiles, as they may not provide the correct care.

COST AND PRICING FACTORS

Be prepared for a significant financial investment. The price of an **Armadillo Girdled Lizard for sale** is a direct reflection of its scarcity, captive-bred status, and the effort required to breed them. You can typically expect to pay anywhere from **\$800 to \$1,500 or more** for a single captive-bred specimen. Prices can vary based on age (babies are often less expensive than proven adults), morph or color variation (if any), and the reputation of the breeder. This high price tag is one of the reasons it is so important to buy a healthy animal; a cheap lizard is often a red flag that it may be wild-caught or ill. Remember, the initial purchase price is just the beginning. The cost of a proper

enclosure, UVB lighting, specialized heating, and a consistent supply of insects will add several hundred dollars more to the total setup cost.

HOUSING AND ENCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

Providing the correct environment is the most critical factor for a healthy armadillo lizard. Replicating their native South African rocky habitat is key. A single armadillo lizard or a pair/trio will thrive in a 36x18x18 inch (40-gallon breeder) terrarium or larger. More floor space is better than height, as they are terrestrial.

Key Enclosure Components

- **Substrate:** A mix of play sand and organic topsoil (or a specialized arid reptile mix) is ideal. It should be deep enough to hold slight moisture at the bottom but dry on top.
- **Hides and Rockwork:** This is non-negotiable. Use flat slate, flagstone, and cork bark to create a complex network of crevices, caves, and basking platforms. They need to feel secure. The structure should be sturdy enough that it will not collapse on the lizard.
- **Temperature Gradient:** These lizards need a distinct hot side and cool side. A basking spot should reach 95-100°F (35-38°C) using a halogen heat lamp. The cool side should be around 75-80°F (24-27°C). Nighttime temperatures can drop to 65-70°F (18-21°C).
- **UVB Lighting:** A high-quality UVB bulb (like a T5 HO linear fixture with a 5.0 or 6% bulb) is essential for vitamin D3 synthesis and calcium absorption. Without it, they will develop metabolic bone disease.
- **Humidity:** They require low humidity (around 30-40%). Overly humid conditions can lead to respiratory infections and skin problems.

DIET AND NUTRITION

Armadillo Girdled Lizards are primarily insectivorous. Their diet in captivity should consist largely of insects. A varied diet is crucial for their health. Good staple feeders include:

- **Gut-loaded crickets**
- **Dubia roaches**
- **Black soldier fly larvae**
- **Mealworms (in moderation, as they are high in fat)**

Occasional treats can include hornworms or waxworms. All insects should be dusted with a calcium supplement (with D3) at most feedings and a multivitamin supplement once or twice a week. They typically do not eat a lot of plant matter, but some keepers offer small amounts of leafy greens, which may be consumed. Feeding should be done 3-4 times a week for adults, and daily for juveniles.

HEALTH AND VETERINARY CARE

Finding an exotic vet who is experienced with reptiles, specifically lizards like the **Armadillo Girdled Lizard**, is a prerequisite for ownership. Common health issues to watch for include:

- **Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD):** Caused by insufficient UVB or calcium. Symptoms include lethargy, tremors, and soft jawbones.
- **Respiratory Infections:** Often caused by incorrect humidity or temperature. Look for open-mouth breathing or wheezing.
- **Parasites:** More common in wild-caught animals. A fecal check by a vet is a good idea when you first bring your lizard home.
- **Stomatitis (Mouth Rot):** An infection of the mouth, often visible as swelling or a cheesy-

looking discharge.

A healthy lizard will be alert, have clear eyes, a clean vent, and a good body weight (the tail base should be plump, not thin). Always quarantine a new lizard for at least 30-60 days before introducing it to any existing reptiles.

TEMPERAMENT AND HANDLING

Despite their spiky appearance, captive-bred Armadillo Girdled Lizards are known to be relatively docile and can become tame with regular, gentle handling. However, it is important to respect their nature. They are not "cuddly" pets. Handling should be done on their terms. Start slowly, allowing them to get used to your presence. When you do handle them, support their entire body. Never