

Frog Care



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INTRODUCTION

If you are planning on getting a Frog as a pet, or you already have one but want to brush up on your frog care skills, this manual will guide you in ensuring they live a long healthy and happy life. At Reptile Life we generally stock Green Tree Frogs from Northern Australia and the Victorian Frog species, Marsh Frogs and the Banjo (Pobblebonk) Frog. The Local frogs tend to be more popular as they require no heat and no Wildlife Licence. Whilst all species are fantastic for both first time owners and seasoned professionals, there are several factors you should consider when looking after your new friend to ensure they will stay happy and healthy.

Local Victorian Frogs range in size from 5cm – 9cm in length and the Green Tree Frogs can grow up to 10cm. Both Victorian Frogs can live for 5-10 years and the Green Tree Frog has been known to live up to 16 years in captivity. All Frogs are relatively low maintenance compared to a cat or dog or even other lizards!

HOUSING

Glass Terrariums are the most practical form of housing for all species of frog as they are simple to clean and make it easy for you to view your new friend exploring his home. Frogs are semi-arboreal meaning they 'like to climb'. We recommend when choosing an enclosure, lean towards a glass terrarium that has more height rather than length.

TIP – Add plenty of décor to your Frog's enclosure to replicate their natural environment.

ULTRA VIOLET LIGHTING

Both Banjo and Marsh Frogs kept indoors do not require Ultraviolet light (UVB) as they are a nocturnal species however there have been studies showing benefits of small amounts of UV light. Calcium is incredibly important for the bone structure of your frog which is provided to the amphibian through a calcium powder lightly dusted on their live cricket food. In regard to Green Tree Frogs - Zoos, Specialist Veterinarians and Breeders say that 2.0 UVB Lighting is essential for Green Tree Frogs. Under no circumstance is a 5.0 or 10.0 Desert UV Tube to be used for frogs. Remember to replace your 2.0 UVB tube every year as the UVB rays deteriorate over time. At 12 months, most UVB tubes produce no UV light.

TIP - Ultraviolet light does not travel through glass. The UV light must reach your Frogs uninterrupted and within 45cm.

HEATING

The Southern Frogs do not require any form of heating however if a small heat mat is added to their enclosure, they will be more active. Green tree frogs being from Northern Australia need to be kept between 24-26 degrees and also be offered a humid environment. An easy way to do this is add an aquarium heater into a body of water in the terrarium. This will create condensation on the glass which is perfect for your Green Tree Frog. At Reptile Life we stock Temperature and Humidity Gauges, Heaters and UVB Lighting for all frog species.

TIP-Use a Heater Guard to prevent your frog from being burnt.

BREEDING

All Frogs can become very noisy when it comes to the breeding season. This is usually seen after a “winter cooling” period where the frog goes into a state of brumation. As the weather warms up, they begin to cycle which can result in male croaking when sprayed with water which can result in breeding behaviour. If a male and female are kept together during breeding “spawning” behaviour can be seen where they will sit together and the female will lay a collection of eggs with a jelly like protective foam around them. Frog species can lay between 200-2000 eggs which initially float but then sink within 24 hours. The development of the tadpoles usually takes 6 weeks then small frogs begin to appear.

SEXING

Sexing Frogs is a difficult task. With most Frogs, once mature the female is slightly larger than the male. The male will also croak after a spray with water or rainfall to attract females. (Please be aware that the female will also croak however she is much quieter than the male) During breeding season, the male will develop black nuptial pads on their hands that are used to grasp the female. Another is by comparing a confirmed male or female with your Frog and review behaviour.

The easiest way to sex mature Marsh frogs is the female has a white chin and the males have an olive coloured chin. Please be aware that juvenile males can also have a white chin.

TIP – Try finding some helpful tutorials online in regard to sexing to assist in getting a clearer picture.

TANK MATES

As the environmental conditions are completely different it is not possible to keep Green Tree Frogs together with the Local Southern state's frogs. If planning on cohabitating frogs, it is best to stick to the same species to minimise the risk of issues and ensuring that husbandry conditions are essentially the same. When having multiple frogs living together it is recommended that they are similar in size as to avoid any aggression.

TIP - if choosing to keep Banjo and Marsh Frogs together upgrade your enclosure to a larger model to combat the added space required to prevent aggression from occurring.

TANK MAINTENANCE

It is essential to do a complete clean out of your frog's enclosure at least once per month and ensure that any food scraps and waste are cleaned up. Spot cleaning is also very important and should be done at least every 2 days. Drinking water should be changed daily. If housing your frogs in a terrarium with a water section it is recommended that you check for ammonia using an aquarium Ammonia Testing Kit. This ammonia is produced by overfeeding and your frogs daily waste. Chlorine Neutraliser must be used as Chlorine can harmful to your frogs.

DIET

Frogs are insectivorous and feed on a variety of whole food items. Their staple food are crickets, small wood roaches and mealworms (chopped up). At Reptile Life we dust all food with calcium and vitamin D3 to ensure their bones stay nice and strong.

Juvenile Frogs should be fed crickets that are appropriately sized to the body and head size, whilst adults should be offered larger crickets less frequently. Waiting between feeds allows frogs to digest their food properly as their metabolisms are slow which means food takes longer to pass through their digestive systems. If you have more than one frog, we recommend feeding them separately so one of your frogs doesn't miss out on food.

TOXIC TO YOUR FROG

Be careful what you feed your frogs. Insects caught from your garden should never be used as feeders as they may have diseases or poisons that may harm your frog.

Likewise, we recommend only feeding fresh foods to your frogs and removing any left-over food that your frog hasn't eaten.

HEALTH CARE

Observe carefully what your frog is eating so you will be aware if it loses its appetite. This could be a sign illness or insufficient heating, UV lighting, Calcium or excessive ammonia in the water. Establish a pattern of what a healthy frog looks like so that you can more easily pick up when your frog's actions are different. However, most problems originate from poor or incorrect tank maintenance and hygiene.

Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD) – Caused by Vitamin D3 and Calcium deficiency or inadequate lighting in the case of Green Tree Frogs.

Chemical Toxicity – Frogs have very sensitive skin. We recommend to de-chlorinate the water and make sure no chemicals such as kitchen or laundry cleaners are used.

IN SUMMARY

Frogs have been extremely popular as pets in Australia and overseas for many years and the popularity is growing quickly. They make a fantastic pet especially for kids as they teach them responsible pet ownership. Given the correct conditions your new pet Frog will thrive in captivity giving your kids hours of fun and enjoyment.