



Tree Frogs

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The most common arboreal (tree living) species of frogs kept as pets are the green tree frog (*Hylidae cinerea*), and the White's tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*). The green tree frog is native to the Southeastern US, where they can be heard singing, often just before rain. White's tree frogs can change color becoming more blue green at warmer temperatures and more dull brown at cooler temperatures. Whites tree frogs have tympanic ridges over their ears (projections that look a bit like eyebrows). If you can't see them at all, the frog is probably too skinny. If they are flopping down towards the ear then it is obese.

Health Care: Frogs and toads can be very good at hiding illness. We recommend biannual exams and fecal float. Weighing your pet at home can be a good way to catch illnesses early. Please bring them in to see us if their weight changes by 10%, or more. Common problems include: nutritional deficiencies from diets lacking variety, wounds, fungal infections.

Husbandry concerns: House new amphibians by themselves until cleared by your veterinarian, often a quarantine period of six months. Do not keep different species in the same enclosure to avoid introducing diseases and because some species produce compounds through their skin that can be harmful to others. Keep handling to a minimum as the oils in human skin are harmful to amphibians. Always wash your hands before and after handling. Be sure the lid is well fitted and does not contain any holes through which the amphibian can escape as they can be very crafty and some are good climbers. Aquariums that are taller than they are wide are best for these guys as they don't spend much time on the ground. Line the bottom of the cage with artificial turf. Provide lots of branches for climbing and real or silk plants for hiding. A water bowl large enough for the frog to climb into but shallow enough that they can easily get out of should be provided. Mist animals daily. Clean bedding out on a weekly basis. Provide climbing objects, but remember there is no good way to fully clean wooden items, and they should be periodically thrown away and replaced. Temperature requirements vary by species. Green tree frogs should be kept between 70-82F. White's tree frogs should be kept at 85F during the day, cooling down to 68F at night. White lights should be turned off at night. Cages should be lit with a UVB light of 5% or less for 10-12hrs per day. Be careful with the use of disinfectants when cleaning and wash them off very well, as they can be toxic if absorbed through amphibian skin. Any cage furniture collected from outside should be disinfected. You can do this by baking them on low in the oven for an hour, placing them in boiling water for 15 minutes, or by soaking in a mild bleach solution for a few hours and then rinsing with clean water and soaking in clean water for 24-48 hours. If you can still smell bleach on it, it needs to be rinsed and soaked more. This is to get rid of bacteria and fungus that may be harmful to your pet. In water dishes and tanks, always use dechlorinated water or bottled water, as chlorine can be harmful to amphibians.

Diet: Terrestrial amphibians generally find their food by watching it move. Food items should be rotated and varied to provide a balanced diet. Food should be smaller than the amphibian's head is wide, with the exception of

More on the back!

soft worms. Earthworms, crickets, beetles, pill bugs, moths and other insects are good for terrestrial and semi-aquatic frogs and toads. Do not feed fireflies as they are poisonous! Provide food for any insects left in the cage so they don't chew on the amphibian! Note that crickets are relatively high in cholesterol and having them over represented in the diet may lead to cholesterol deposits in the skin or eyes. These insects should be misted in a zip-loc bag, then shake-and-baked with a calcium-only powder coating before feeding to the amphibian (we recommend using Tums crushed into a powder). Avoid lots of mealworms, feed mostly as treats. Larger frogs and toads can be fed fish or rodents as well. Live fish can be fed, but rodents should be pre-killed as live mice can bite and severely injure your pet. Hold pre-killed rodents with forceps, you may have to move them a bit to get the animal's attention. Insects should be housed separately from the amphibian, with only a few offered for feeding to avoid stress.

