



Aquatic Frogs

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The most common species of fully aquatic frog kept as pets are African clawed frogs (*Xenopus laevis*) and African dwarf frogs (*Hymenochirus curtipes*). African clawed frogs can live over 25 years and reach 5 inches in length. African clawed frogs are illegal to keep in California and Oregon. Be careful not to confuse African dwarf frogs with the larger African clawed frogs as they can look very similar when young, however these animals only reach 1.5 inches.

Health Care: Frogs can be very good at hiding illness. Common problems include: nutritional deficiencies from diets lacking variety, wounds, fungal infections.

Husbandry concerns: Keep handling to a minimum as the oils in human skin are harmful to amphibians. 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. White lights should be turned off at night. 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. Always use dechlorinated water or bottled water, as chlorine can be harmful to amphibians. Fully aquatic species should be housed in a sturdy 10 to 20 gallon aquarium with a filter and aeration, lined with gravel or rocks too large for the amphibian to possibly eat. Real or silk plants should be provided as hiding spots. Aquatic frogs should be kept at 75F. Heat using a submersible water heater, if necessary. A 70% water change should be done weekly. If you must catch an aquatic frog, use a net with fine enough mesh that their toes cannot get caught in it.

Diet: Aquatic amphibians generally find their food by smell, sensing movement or by touch. 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 soft worms. Aquatic frogs require aquatic prey such as daphnia or water fleas, which can be found in streams or ponds, or brine shrimp or tubiflex worms which can be purchased at pet stores. Aquatic and semi-aquatic frogs and toads will also eat fish and most other things that fit in their mouth, important to consider when putting them in habitats with other critters! Many aquatic frogs will also eat earthworms.



