



## **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. A wide variety of cage substrate can be used. Paper towels must be changed out every 48 hours. Moss should be changed out every 5 days. Artificial turf should be swapped out and cleaned weekly. Multilayered substrate with live plants, or fully bioactive enclosures, can make it easier to maintain humidity, however requires a drainage layer and careful planning to avoid build up of harmful bacteria or fungi. Provide lots of branches for climbing and real or silk plants for hiding. Be sure that any plants placed in the tank have never been treated with pesticides or other chemicals. 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 as often as necessary to maintain appropriate humidity: 60-70% for most species. 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, but are generally from the upper 70s to low 80sF during the day. 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

**More on the back!**

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:** Tree frogs 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 soft worms. Earthworms, crickets, dubia roaches, beetles, pillbugs, moths and other insects are good for tree frogs, though they can be very picky and may not recognize species of insects they weren't introduced to at a young age as food. 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! Insects should be "gut loaded", fed a nutritious diet, such as Repashy Bug Burger, before being fed to the animal. 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 Repashy SuperCal NoD. A pre-formed vitamin A supplement, such as Repashy A Plus, is also recommended weekly. Some Species may require a multivitamin supplement, such as Repashy Supervite, every 2 weeks. Avoid lots of mealworms, feed mostly as treats. Insects should be housed separately from the amphibian, with only a few offered for feeding to avoid stress.



