

Feeding

An American Green Tree Frog's diet usually consists of what ever insect they can catch & swallow. Usually they will eat crickets, moths, flies, & many types of worms. They can go up to 21 days without eating, & they have been known to prey upon their own kind as a last resort. Do not feed too large of prey. The largest prey should be no bigger than twice the size of the largest part of the frog you are feeding. Frozen/thawed is less expensive & easier to keep than live prey. It is also safer for your frog as dead prey can't fight back. If your frog refuses to eat frozen/thawed, you can feed live. Make sure you are present as live prey can & will fight back causing an injury to your pet. Smaller frogs should be fed daily, while larger frogs can be fed daily or every other day.

Seek veterinary attention if your pet changes behavior or becomes inactive; this may indicate the pet has an illness.

As a pet owner, you are responsible for proper pet practices. Be prepared to take an ill pet to a Veterinarian & know which Veterinarian in your area can treat your pet.



check-list ✓

Your pet Tree Frog requires...

- Aquarium or Terrarium of appropriate size
- Red light / Heat source
- Under-tank heater or 'heated rock'
- Bathing dish or bowl (big enough for the frog)
- Substrate or bedding material
- Rocks piled or Ferns (for hiding spots)
- Vines & branches (for climbing)
- Misting bottle (simple plant sprayer for water)
- Thermometer
- Sealable box for keeping 'live' food (insects)



Tree Frogs

- Size: 10 cm (4 in) for females, males are a little smaller at 7.5cm (3 in). Largest known size is 6in/15cm.
- Life Span: 12 - 16 years on average



Temperament

A tree frog is any frog that spends a major portion of its lifespan in trees, known as an arboreal state. Their ancestors lived long before the extinction of the dinosaurs. As the name implies, they are usually found in tall trees or high-growing vegetation. They do not normally descend to the ground, except to mate & spawn (some build foam nests on leaves & rarely leave the trees at all). The habitat is near lakes, farm ponds, floodplain sloughs, cattail marshes, or bald cypress swamps.

Frogs in the wild are facing population declines & extinction largely as a result of human activities. You should try to buy frogs that you are sure are captive bred locally & tested to be free of disease. The declining numbers is partly caused by Chytrid fungus introduced into wild populations from pet specimens.

For most cases, a pet store tree frog is usually an American green tree frog (*Hyla cinerea*) & is a common species, belonging to the genus *Hyla*. It is a popular species of pet frog. Their bodies are usually colored green with shades ranging from bright yellowish olive to lime green. Color can change depending on lighting or temperature. There may be some small patches of gold or white. They may also have a white, pale yellow, or cream-colored line running from the jaw or upper lip to the groin. They have smooth skin & large toe pads. The abdomen is pale yellow to white. Males have wrinkled throats (the vocal pouch) & are slightly smaller than females. They are active & very entertaining to watch.

Housing



Tree Frog's harmless nature & character, & easy care make them a good pet choice!

Tree Frogs do not need much room. A 10 gallon fish tank is fine, to start. You ideally want a tall tank or terrarium that you can mimic the frog's natural environment with branches for the frog to climb & leafy areas to hide under. All reptile environments must have tight fitting doors or lids.

Your frog environment should include:

- **Substrate:** gravel (should be smooth), cypress mulch, or soil with peat/vermiculite or indoor/outdoor carpeting. The substrate can be covered with moss or cork bark.
- **Heating:** The temperature in your frogs enclosure should be between 70 - 80 Fahrenheit. At night the temperature can drop as low as 64. An under tank heater can be used as the only source of heat by putting it on half the tank. A combination of under tank heating &/or a low wattage basking light works well (maintains humidity).
- **Decoration:** Branches, vines, rocks, etc are good things to have in your enclosure to give your Frog something to climb on. Opportunity for climbing is very important, make sure to provide a variety of branches & live or artificial plants. Live plants to consider include philodendrons or sturdy ferns.
- **Water:** provide a large water dish with dechlorinated water (tree frogs are not good swimmers so a shallow bowl). The tank should be misted with dechlorinated water daily to maintain humidity. (live plants also help)

m
r
p
e
t
s
c
a
r
e
g
u
i
d
e

Buy a ten gallon tank for two frogs, a 15 gallon tank for three to five frogs. Make sure your tank is tall rather than wide, since these frogs climb. Also make sure your tank has a tight fitting lid as they manage escape from impossible places (make sure they aren't stuck to the lid when you feed - you might be surprised). You should have some real or fake plants (real plants can be used too, but are harder to keep clean). Some live plants are toxic to the Tree Frog & many more can harbor bacteria harmful to them!. Make sure your frogs have things to climb! If they don't, they will stick to the glass in the tank, anything to climb. Use a substrate (the stuff that lines the bottom of the tank) such as cedar bark, coconut bark, pebbles, even paper towels can be used as substrate. Get something that is broken up into small pieces, so the frogs don't eat it or become impaled by it (smooth gravel or rocks).

Make sure the water in your dish is less than an inch deep. Many tree frogs can swim, but prefer to perch on moist areas. Make sure the water in the dish is dechlorinated by leaving a container of water out at least 24 hours. Chlorine in tap water can kill some frogs & must be left to evaporate. A small water dish is standard, as these frogs like to bathe or soak in water (they can breathe & drink through their skin!) Mist them occasionally along with the plants (if they are real ones). You are trying to create an environment that is relatively warm & moist. The frogs will benefit from having live plants in their terrarium. Pothos are an excellent choice for tree frog terrariums. Pothos can be left in pots, grown in jars of water or planted directly into soil on the bottom of the terrarium. The plants will provide the frogs with places to perch & help maintain high humidity. Green Tree Frogs naturally live in a moist environment & like humidity no lower than 65%. You can use a spray bottle to spray the tank & keep humidity up. Automatic humidifiers can be used as well. A small heater should be placed under the terrarium to insure that the temperature stays above 76 degrees Fahrenheit. A florescent light can be used during the day. UVA/UVB lighting is not needed although it doesn't hurt to use it anyway (no more than 10 hours a day). You should thoroughly clean the enclosure once a week to every ten days. Taking every thing out & scrubbing it under hot water (no soap). Place the frogs in a small container at this time. The tank itself will need to be cleaned too (hot water, no soap).

Handling is stressful & unhealthy for amphibians, as the chemicals in human skin can be detrimental to them. When handling is necessary, clean gloves should be worn.



m
r
p
e
t
s
c
a
r
e
g
u
i
d
e