

Giant Toad

A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

The giant toad, *Bufo marinus*, is a large amphibian that requires little care. Introduced onto sugar plantations for insect control, it has spread widely in the tropics where it is highly invasive.

Always wash your hands after touching an amphibian or any part of an amphibian's habitat. See our *Amphibians, Reptiles and Prevention of Salmonella Transmission* statement at the beginning of the CareSheets section for more information.

Immediate Care and Handling

Take care when handling these toads, and wash your hands thoroughly afterward since they secrete an irritating toxin from the parotid glands at the back of their heads.

Maintain at 24-27°C (75-80°F) during the day and 19-21°C (66-70°F) at night. Keep under reduced room light. Change the water once a week or more often if it becomes fouled.

Giant toads are omnivorous, and will eat a wide range of live food items including small vertebrates. Suggested foods include redworms, crickets, mealworms, wax worms, and other soft-bodied insects. Unlike native toads, they will accept non-live foods. We recommend an occasional dusting of the food with a mineral/vitamin supplement.

Habitat Setup and Maintenance

A suitable habitat for *Bufo marinus* is an inclined tank with water in one end, or a semiaquatic terrarium. Be sure the tank has a well-secured, ventilated top. If housing several together, allow about 30 cm² (one square foot) of floor space for each large toad. Smaller toads require less space, from 15 to 20 cm² (6 to 8" square). Damp sphagnum moss makes a good substrate. Other good substrates include reptile litters and shredded coconut husks. Avoid using potting soils as substrate as these often contain fertilizers that can harm the toad. Provide water in a shallow tray or pan.

FAQs

Why can't you ship me a giant toad?

Some states require you to have a permit to receive this animal. Contact the proper agency of your state for the permit. Never release a giant toad into the environment.

Are giant toads harmful to pets?

Dogs that take giant toads into their mouths often have their mouths and eyes irritated by the toad's toxin. This is usually not serious, but some pet deaths are attributed to this toad.

Can I keep a giant toad with other animals?

We do not recommend it. The giant toad will eat any animal smaller than itself, and its toxin may irritate larger animals.

Problems? We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

Orders and replacements: 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

Technical Support and Questions: caresheets@carolina.com



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