

Tree Frogs

A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

Tree frogs (*Hyla*) are attractive, readily available, and easy to care for, so they are an excellent choice for the terrarium. Their only special requirements are live food and a secure habitat.

Note: *Most frogs never adapt to being touched, so it is best to leave them alone. If you must pick up a frog to move it, either wear gloves or rinse your hands to remove oils that can damage the frog's skin. Always wash your hands after touching an amphibian or any part of an amphibian's habitat. For more information, go to Carolina.com (Teachers Resources tab; Care Sheets section) and view our "Amphibians, Reptiles, and Prevention of Salmonella Transmission" statement.*

Immediate Care and Handling

As soon as your tree frogs arrive, open the shipping container and remove the cup of damp sphagnum moss containing your frogs. Before opening the cup, remember that tree frogs are climbers and leapers. They may leap out when you open the cup, or they may cling to the underside of the lid. It is best to establish a habitat before they arrive and release them directly into it. If this is not possible, set up a holding container with secure lid until the permanent habitat is ready.

Habitat

Use a glass or plastic terrarium. Our Amphibian/Reptile Tank (item #674310) or Naturalistic Terrarium (item #674302) is a good choice. The tank should be tall to give these climbers room to maintain their normal activity. Tree frogs require good ventilation to thrive. Always remember that they are escape artists, so use a tight-fitting screen cover for the tank. Special lighting is not required, but avoid direct sunlight.

The substrate for a tree frog terrarium may be as simple as newspaper. For a display terrarium, use a 1 to 3" layer of peat-based (fertilizer-free) potting soil over a 1 to 1½" layer of coarse aquarium gravel (for drainage). Decorative plants provide climbing and hiding places. We recommend plants with low light requirements such as ferns and tropical foliage plants. Use native woodland plants for a more educational display.

Provide a glass or plastic container of clean dechlorinated water at all times. (See the "General

Guidelines on Living Materials from Carolina Biological Supply Company CareSheet” for information on removing chlorine and chloramines from tap water.) Use a container shallow enough for the frogs to get out of easily. **Note:** *Tree frogs may drown if the water is too deep.*

Food

Tree frogs require live food. Feed them live Crickets (item #143556) 2 or 3 times a week. Once each week, dust the crickets with a calcium/vitamin supplement. Other appropriate live foods include House Fly Larvae (item #144410), Wax Moth Larvae (item #143928), etc. Flying insects, if you can provide them, are especially attractive to tree frogs. Any live food should be small enough to fit into the frog’s mouth.

Maintenance

Keep tree frogs at temperatures of 23 to 29° C (74 to 85° F). They can tolerate night temperatures as low as 16° C (60° F) when kept in a classroom. If the tank is located where temperatures will fall below this point, an under-tank heater or nocturnal heat lamp will maintain an appropriate temperature. **Note:** *Limit the heat lamp’s bulb to 25 watts.* When using an under-tank heater, position it at the end of the tank. Position a heat lamp over a high point in the tank, such as over a branch, so the frog can find a comfortable heat zone. Keep humidity near 80%; a daily misting with dechlorinated water helps to maintain proper humidity.

FAQ’s

How large are tree frogs?

At maturity, they range from 1¼ to 2¼" (about 3 to 6 cm) long.

Do tree frogs sing?

Yes, you often hear them calling in early spring. The call is a nasal “queek” repeated endlessly.

My frogs seldom move. Are they OK?

Tree frogs are nocturnal and are most active at night. It is possible to use special lighting to reverse their day/night cycle.

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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