

All Creatures Care Cottage
1912 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa, CA 92627
(949) 642-7151

Client information handout

Small Tree Frog

Introduction:

There are many types of tree frogs sold for pets today. Some of the more common species are green, gray, masked, barking, clown, fancy, red eye, and gold. Tree frogs can live up to 4 years in captivity and will be about 2 to 3 inches in length.

Behavior:

Tree frogs drink by emerging themselves in water and water is absorbed through their skin. Tree frogs are shy and generally will stay still as to not be seen. They prefer to eat when they are not being looked at, so feed in the morning and at night to ensure that they will eat. The disc shaped protuberances on each digit help tree frogs with their climbing.

Housing:

A 10-gallon tank can house several frogs, as long as they are compatible. Tree frogs like to climb, so provide lots of vertical branches. The cage should be kept at 70 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit with a high humidity of 80%. Mist several times daily and use a moist substrate such as potting soil to keep the humidity high. Several water bowls will also help maintain humidity. The water in the bowls must be changed often as the frog's "drink" by sitting in water and absorbing it rather than lapping it up. They also defecate in the same bowls, so it must be kept clean.

Diet:

Crickets are the main diet of tree frogs, but they may occasionally like a few mealworms. Crickets must be smaller than the tree frog's head. They should be sprinkled with a vitamin supplement several times weekly before they are fed to the frogs. Tree frogs should be fed every 2 to 3 days, but be sure no crickets are left over after your pet's meal because they may nibble on your new pet. About 2-3 crickets are enough if the right size cricket is provided.

Common medical problems:

Your pet should be checked visually on a regular basis. Any abnormalities of the skin, such as lumps, bumps or bubbles should be noted. Any changes in the eye are considered cause for concern. Dehydration is very common in tree frogs, also watch for lethargy and swollen body or abdomen. See your exotic veterinarian as soon as any changes are noted, as early detection will increase the chances of a positive outcome.