Aurora ANIMAL + HOSPITAL
www.AuroraAnimalHospital.com (303)680-7305

White's Tree Frog Caresheet

Please note these care sheets are intended for the average reptile owner to ensure that your pet is receiving basic care needed to have a healthy life and there are other aspects of advanced care that can be considered for healthy pets.

Brief Description

White's tree frogs *(Pelodryas caerulea)*, otherwise known as Dumpy tree frogs, are nocturnal arboreal frogs native to northern and eastern Australia and adjoining New Guinea. These large (3-4.5 inches long) frogs are generally a green base color, sometimes with a bluish hue, and some individuals have spots of white on the black and sides. Despite being harmless, frogs should not be handled except when necessary because oils or household chemicals (even lotion or soap residues) on your hands can be absorbed through their skin and cause illness.



Lifespan

With proper care the average expected lifespan is 10-15 years although over 20 years has been reported.

Caging

A glass terrarium with little to no ventilation is necessary to maintain humidity. A minimum tank size of 18x18x24" is required for one frog, and larger if there are multiple frogs. Any frogs housed together should be the same size physically to avoid cannibalism.

Substrate

The goal is to recreate a naturalistic environment with substrate and live plants to mimic the tropical environment of the rainforest. In a naturalistic vivarium the substrate typically consists of a drainage layer of hydroton (expanded clay pellets), then a barrier such as screen or mesh, then a well-draining substrate of coco coir and sphagnum moss or ABG mix at least 2-3 inches deep that is kept damp (not wet). The top should be covered in long fiber sphagnum and/or leaf litter and can be seeded with springtails and isopods to reduce organic waste material. Plants like pothos, bromeliads, ferns, moss, etc. can be planted directly in the substrate providing hiding spots and filtration of the environment.

Lighting and Temperature

White's tree frogs thrive with their environment being 72-76 degrees with a small basking area of 80-83 degrees and should be measured with a digital thermometer. They cannot withstand sustained warm temperatures so the tank should not ever get above 85 degrees. Temperatures can get as low as 65 degrees at night. UVB lighting is often not used with frogs and they seem to thrive without UVB as long as D3 is supplemented orally. However, using UVB is not harmful.

Humidity and Water

Humidity should be kept in the range of 50-70% at all times and should be measured with a digital hygrometer. A humidifier and/or automatic misting system is a very worthwhile investment for frog tanks. A shallow water bowl should be available and cleaned daily. Tree frogs cannot swim well so should not have access to deep water.

All water used (even to keep the substrate damp) should be treated for chlorines and chloramines with a water conditioner as amphibian skin is very porous and will absorb toxins from the environment easily. Bottled water is an alternative to treated tap water.

Food

White's tree frogs are insectivores and often thrive on crickets. Frogs should be offered roughly as many insects as it is capable of eating within a 5 minute period daily for juveniles and every other day for adults. If it's starting to look overweight, reduce the number of insects per meal. Each insect should be at least slightly smaller than your frog's head. You can let the insects loose inside the enclosure for your frog to chase down, or you can offer them in a wall-mounted feeding dish.

Supplementation

Most frogs do have high vitamin A and calcium requirements so at least 2-3 times a week the crickets should be dusted with a powdered supplement (my preference is Repashy Calcium Plus alternated with Repashy Vitamin A Plus).