

Is this the right pet for me?

Keeping a frog as a pet can bring great enjoyment. They are one of the most amazing animals on the planet with each having their own personalities. People often think they are not real as they sit almost motionless in the terrariums ... until they spot an insect!

Recommended for...

- People of all ages.
- People with limited space looking to have a little bit of nature in their lounge rooms.
- People after something a little different as a pet.

Lifespan

Up to 20 years depending on the species.

Feeding

Frogs eat insects such as crickets, cockroaches, meal worms and flies. Food should be dusted with a calcium and multivitamin powder before being fed. Foods high in protein and fat such as canned dog food and red meat should be avoided as they can cause damage to organs such as the kidneys and the eyes.

Adult frogs can be fed 10-20% of their body weight in food over 2-3 feeds each week. Juvenile frogs can be fed more often than this.

Insects that drown in the water should be removed to avoid the water becoming fouled. Alternatively frogs can be fed individually by using a large pair of tweezers to hold insects.



NEW FROG CHECKLIST

Here's a list of the essentials you'll need for your new Frog. Please ask any of the Best Friends team to help you with your selections.

Essential equipment

- Terrarium or aquarium tank of appropriate size with suitable heating and lighting.
- A good quality filter of the right type and size.

Food

- Source of food items such as crickets, cockroaches, meal worms and calcium and multivitamin powder.
- Plants and branches, rocks and water container.

Special Offer:

Caring for your Frog



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Selecting a Frog

There are a variety of species of frog that are commonly available to be kept as pets in Victoria. By far the most common is the Green Tree Frog (*Litoria caerulea*).

Before deciding on purchasing a frog it is important to do your research. Keeping a frog requires commitment and they have particular husbandry requirements that need to be met to ensure they live a long and happy life.

Licence Requirements

By law all Australian frogs are protected and a licence is required to keep many species. Specific information regarding licence types, species allowed to be kept and licence fees can be obtained from the Department of Sustainability and Environment by calling **136 186** or at www.dse.vic.gov.au.

Handling

In general frogs are not a pet that should be handled. They really are a "look but don't touch" type of pet! While some species of frogs like the Green Tree Frog will calmly sit in the palm of your hand other species get easily stressed and will jump away given the slightest chance.

If you must handle your frog it is advisable to wear clean, disposable gloves. This will avoid any contaminants such as detergents being absorbed through the frog's skin and potentially causing illness.

Housing

Frogs can be kept in a variety of enclosures but they must be water-proof and non-toxic. A glass terrarium or aquarium with a tight fitting lid is the best as frogs are very good at escaping.

Depending on the species being kept the tank will need to be heated. The easiest way to achieve this is to flood part of the tank

with water and place an aquarium water heater in this area.

Tropical frogs like Green Tree Frogs need the water heated to 24-26°C. This will allow the water to evaporate and create a humid environment perfect for keeping frogs.

Maintaining water quality is vital to ensuring the health of your frogs. Tap water should be allowed to age for 24 hours to allow the removal of chlorine and using hot water should be avoided as it contains increased levels of copper that are toxic to frogs. The water in the tank should be changed regularly and should be continuously filtered. Ensure the water is not too turbulent as it can drown young frogs. There should be numerous places for frogs to escape from the water such as rocks and branches.

Frogs need to be provided with UV light for adequate bone growth, nerve and muscle function. This can be provided in the form of a special fluorescent tube that is designed to produce UV light at the correct wavelength. The light should be placed on the top of the tank ensuring there is no glass between the light and the frogs as UV light does not penetrate through glass. It should be no further than 30cm from the frogs as the further away from the light the less UV light received. In addition it is important to change the lights every 6-12 months as their UV light production decreases over time.

Plants can be used in the tank to provide hiding places and to simply make the enclosure more naturalistic. The best plants to use are ones that can survive in warm, humid environments with low light levels. Do not allow the soil to become water-logged as



this can allow bacteria to breed. In addition any fertilisers that may be mixed into the soil should be washed off as these are toxic to frogs. An alternative is to use many of the fake, plastic plants that are now available. These should be of good quality and should not break apart as frogs can swallow pieces. The Best Friends team will be able to assist you to set up your enclosure.

Health

A healthy frog should have clear eyes, moist skin free from blemishes and be keen to eat. Common signs of disease include weight loss, skin changes and lack of appetite.

Frogs are very sensitive to chemicals and these should not be used around frogs. These include bleaches and cleaning agents to clean the tank and equipment and household insect sprays.

The Our Vet team recommend twice yearly checkups.

Responsible pet ownership

In most areas of Australia you are required by law to register your pets. In some cases there are restrictions on the number and types of pets you are allowed to keep. Check with your local government for further information on your rights and responsibilities both to your frog and to your neighbours.

Further Information

An excellent reference is the Victorian Frog Group website at www.frogs.org.au.