Green Tree Frog

Genus: *Hyla* sp.
Family: Hylidae
Order: Anura
Class: Amphibia
Phylum: Choradata
Kingdom: Animalia

Conditions for Customer Ownership

We hold permits allowing us to transport these organisms. To access permit conditions, click here.

Never purchase living specimens without having a disposition strategy in place.

Shipments of tree frogs are restricted in Ohio and Oregon. In order to continue to protect our environment, you must house your frog in an escape-proof container. Under no circumstances should you release your frog into the wild.

Primary Hazard Considerations

Always wash your hands thoroughly before and after you handle your tree frog, its food, or anything it has touched. Like most amphibians, tree frogs absorb moisture through their skin. If you have any kind of chemical residue on your hands, it could harm the frog.

Availability

Tree frogs are available year round; they are collected from various areas in the Southeastern U.S. They will arrive in a large plastic container packed with sphagnum moss. Upon arrival you should immediately place your frogs into a new home. The frogs can survive 1–2 days in the container they were shipped in after you receive them. When removing the frogs from their container, be careful, they may jump out. The frogs will be about an inch to two inches long and green in color. If the weather outside is cold, allow your frog to warm to room temperature before transferring them into a habitat.

Captive Care

Habitat:

- Use a 2–10 gallon plastic terrarium or glass aquarium with a screen top. Use a minimum of half a gallon of space per each frog.
- A substrate of sphagnum moss, pebbles, or paper towel can be used. Artificial plants or a small stick can be provided for climbing and hiding. Tree frogs should be kept at room temperature (70–80°F) and high humidity (70–80%; this can be achieved with daily misting with de-chlorinated water). They do not require any sort of special lighting or heat. They generally prefer darker surroundings. When the frogs are not being observed, keep them in a low traffic area on a shelf or table.
- A dish of fresh water, at least 2 inches deep and 6 inches wide should be provided to allow the frogs something to drink, as well as to bathe in. Change the water daily using de-chlorinated tap water, or spring or pond water. Tap water can be de-chlorinated by letting it sit out for 48 hours or by adding a de-chlorinating solution such as Stresscoat 21 W 2338.

Care:

- The diet of tree frogs consists of a variety of living small invertebrates. They can be fed wingless Fruit Flies 87 W 6572, Cricket Nymphs 87 W 6125, and other small insects. They should be fed every other day about 2–4 crickets. Once a week, the food should be dusted with a vitamin and mineral supplement such as Reptivite 21 W 2833 that provides nutrition that they require.
- Mist frogs and habitat daily with fresh de-chlorinated water to ensure high humidity (70–80%).
- Every other week, clean the frogs' habitat by washing the walls of the tank with water (no soap) and changing the substrate.

Information

- Method of Reproduction: Sexual and seasonal—Male tree frogs engage in a mating ritual, well known for their cowbell-like breeding calls, that begins in early spring and lasts through June. Reproduction occurs when the male frog grasps the female's body with its forelimbs and forces the eggs out of her body, generally into water. The male then spreads sperm across the egg mass, thus fertilizing the eggs. This is known as external fertilization.

Life Cycle

- Egg: 40–100 laid in water at a time, with up to 600 laid in one breeding season. Eggs take 4–10 days to hatch. Eggs appear black in color with a clear gel covering. They are about 1 mm in size.
- Tadpole: Remains in water in this stage for about two months while it undergoes metamorphosis. As the tadpole grows, it will develop hind limbs first, then the forelimbs.
- Frog: Once the tadpole has limbs and absorbed its tail, the small froglet will be able to live on the land. It will continue to grow, and becomes sexually mature and full grown in approximately 10–12 months. An adult frog can live anywhere from 2–5 years.

Sexing

- Male: typically smaller than the female (about 1.25–2 inches). Produces loud breeding sounds during mating season.
- Female: Larger than males (about 2–2.5 inches). Can sometimes be seen with eggs under translucent belly skin during breeding season.

Wild Habitat

- The green tree frog is found from eastern Texas east to Florida and as far north as Virginia. They are found near lakes, ponds, swamps, or anywhere where still water is present. They can be found resting in trees or on twigs near these areas. In the wild, they will eat grasshoppers, flies, and moths. A tree frogs' major predators are snakes, bullfrogs, and birds.

Disposition

- We do not recommend releasing any laboratory animal into the wild. As a laboratory animal, it has not encountered or learned wild survival skills and is therefore likely to come to an inhumane end.
- Adoption is the preferred disposition of a vertebrate.
- If the animal cannot be adopted as a pet by a capable owner, it may be surrendered to your local humane society.
- If the animal is to be euthanized, we recommend consulting the AVMA guidelines on euthanasia (American Veterinary Medical Association)http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf.
- According to these guidelines, acceptable methods of euthanasia for an amphibian includes exposure to CO_2 at >60% or treatment with tricaine methane sulfonate (also known as TMS, MS-222 and Biocalm 947-2100). TMS is an anesthetizing agent that will cause fish and amphibian death due to central nervous system depression and hypoxia with overexposure.Wear personal protective equipment (gloves, safety glasses, labcoat) when handling TMS. The fish or amphibian is placed in a solution of 5 g of TMS per 5 gallons of water for 30 minutes or until all motion has ceased. To make sure the animal is dead, check for reflexive movement when the eye is touched. If movement occurs, replace the animal in the TMS solution for another 30 minutes.
- A dead animal should be disposed of as soon as possible. Consult your school's recommendations for disposal. In general, a small dead vertebrate should be handled with gloves, wrapped in something absorbent (like newspaper) then wrapped again in an opaque plastic bag that is sealed (tied tightly) and placed in a general garbage container away from students.

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