



# Care Guide

*Agalychnis callidryas*  
**Red-Eyed Tree Frog**



Like a painting come to life.

With their arrangement of beautiful colors, it is easy to see why the red-eyed tree frog is popular among hobbyist. These bright colors are thought to dissuade predators from taking a bite! Though while stunning, this tree frog is not for beginners. In fact, they can be somewhat delicate and are best by those who have kept frogs before. But if you are looking for a frog (and a little piece of the rainforest), then look no further than the red-eyed tree frog!

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## Lifespan

With proper care, these frogs can live approximately 5 years.

## Size

Frogllets typically measure >1 inch long at time of purchase. After about 10 months, frogllets should have mostly reached their adult size. Adult males typically measure 2.5 inches while females measure 3-3.5 inches.

## Natural History

In the wild, red-eyed tree frogs inhabit the humid canopies of Mexico, Central America, and on through western Columbia. Red-eyed tree frog coloration is quite variable throughout their range. The form typically seen in the pet industry is brilliant green with blue sides mottled with vertically oriented, white reticulations. Their common name is derived from the bright red eyes these animals possess.

## Housing

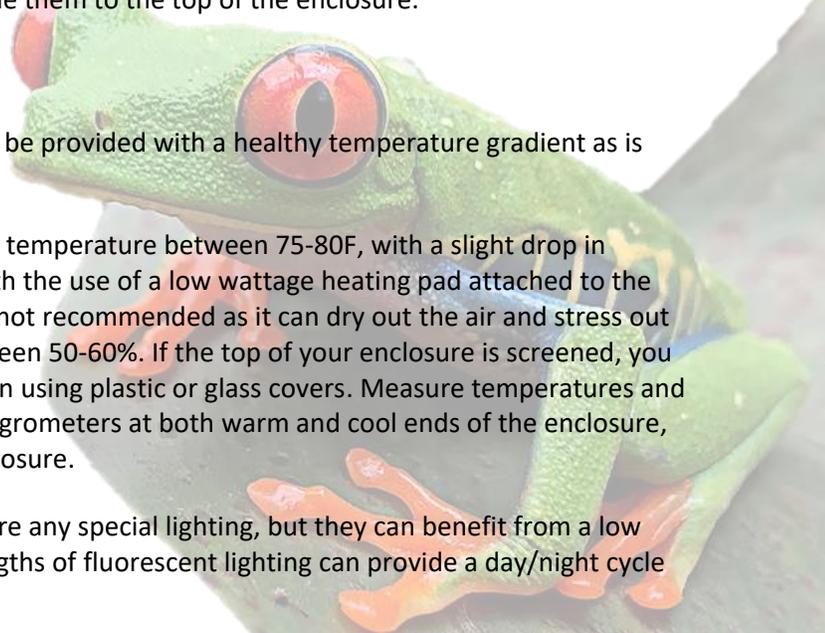
Because these frogs like to climb, an enclosure that is taller than it is longer is strongly emphasized. An 18x18x20" tank can house 2-4 frogs, so long as they are of the same size. Ensure that the lid is tightly secured as their specialized toes can easily scale them to the top of the enclosure.

## Lighting & Heating

To properly thermoregulate, amphibians must be provided with a healthy temperature gradient as is appropriate for each species.

Provide your tree frog with a daytime ambient temperature between 75-80F, with a slight drop in temperature at night. This can be achieved with the use of a low wattage heating pad attached to the side of the enclosure. The use of heat bulbs is not recommended as it can dry out the air and stress out your frog. Humidity levels should remain between 50-60%. If the top of your enclosure is screened, you can partially or completely block the ventilation using plastic or glass covers. Measure temperatures and humidity closely with digital thermometers/hygrometers at both warm and cool ends of the enclosure, or in this case both bottom and top of the enclosure.

These frogs are nocturnal so they do not require any special lighting, but they can benefit from a low output UVB. Exposure to appropriate wavelengths of fluorescent lighting can provide a day/night cycle



for your frog, encourage healthy growth from any live plants displayed in the enclosure, and display your frog in its best colors. Providing a low output UVB is recommended but is not necessary.

## Substrates & Cage Décor

Even in the case of an arboreal frog, the substrate you chose will aid in the recreation of its native tropical habitat. Coconut fiber, orchid bark chips, sphagnum moss, and soils free of manure and fertilizer are suitable. They can even be mixed or layered for a more effective, appealing look. If quarantining or housing young froglets, consider layers of moist paper towels instead to reduce impaction risks.

Red-eyed tree frogs tend to be very active. Cork bark flats/rounds/tubes, sterilized woods, artificial and/or live hardy plants, and most commercially available reptile décor is acceptable.

Offer your frog a water bowl, changing out the water daily with either dechlorinated tap water or bottled water (never distilled), and disinfected weekly with 5% diluted bleach. The use of fresh tap water can introduce heavy metals or chlorine/chloramine to your frog and its environment and is best avoided whenever possible. Contaminants can be present in tap water and harm your frog, and heavy metals can leave unsightly deposits on the glass. If the continued purchase of bottled water is not possible, then dechlorinators can be purchased to use with tap water. Additionally, to maintain proper humidity levels for your frog, mist the enclosure daily using dechlorinated tap water or bottled water as well.

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setups!**



## Diet & Nutrition

Red-eyed tree frogs are insectivores, meaning they primarily consume insects and do not eat plants or vegetables. Your frog should be offered gutloaded, dusted insects regularly, which include appropriately sized crickets, black soldier larvae, and dubia roaches. Waxworms may be offered as a treat.



Beware! Be careful to feed only what your frogs can consume, as excess insects in the enclosure can be harmful to your frog. Offer worms in a dish, preferably a ceramic/metal/glass one that insects cannot climb out of. Crickets or roaches can be dumped into the enclosure.

All food should be dusted with a high quality calcium supplement twice a week. A high quality multivitamin is also recommended and should be dusted once a week.

## Handling & Temperament

All things considered, these tree frogs tolerate handling in moderation. As a standard however, do not begin to handle your new frog until it has settled into its new home. This may take several weeks. Once your frog has been observed exploring its enclosure freely and has eaten consistently, they may gently coaxed from the glass or cage décor with careful fingertips. As frogs, it is especially important that your hands are free of perfumes, lotions, or soaps, and make sure to wash your hands afterward. Or simply, wear gloves. Amphibians have semi-permeable skin and as such, may pick up bacteria from your hands. As with all frogs, they have the ability to jump so it's best to begin handling your frog inside of its enclosure, especially for small children. Be gentle and allow the frog to rest on your hand or fingers, and do not squeeze. Take your time, these tree frogs don't always know that you are friend not foe! With patience you may be able to handle them for short periods of time and otherwise enjoy them as the beautiful display animals that they are.

