



A chubby, cute frog that is always smiling.

Also known as the White's tree frog, the Dumpy's tree frog is a great beginner frog. Of course this comes at no surprise given their hardiness, chubby physique, and friendly smiling appearance. As far as frogs go, captive bred individuals are handleable and easy to feed with an appetite for just about anything, making them enjoyable not only to interact with but to watch as well. Naturally, they are popular first time amphibians for most and make excellent apartment companions.

Lifespan

With proper care, these tree frogs can live an average lifespan of 7-10 years, and up to 20 if you're lucky!

Size

Froglets typically measure >1 inch long at time of purchase. Adults reach lengths of up to 4.5 inches after 10 months. Gender is difficult to determine before they reach adult size, but at maturity males are slightly smaller than females and will have dark, raised pads at the base of their thumbs called nuptial pads.

Natural History

This species of frog is native to northern and eastern parts of Australia and New Guinea. They prefer humid to semi dry habitats and due to their highly adaptable nature, can be commonly found in human inhabited areas as well. Dumpy's tree frogs can exhibit colors ranging from olive green/brown to bluish gray and possess highly developed pads for climbing trees.

Housing

Because these frogs like to climb, an enclosure that is taller than it is longer is strongly emphasized. A 20-gallon tank can house 1-4 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. Fortunately for these inquisitive hardy frogs, they tolerate a wide range of temperatures.

Provide your tree frog with a daytime ambient in the lower 80sF, 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%. Measure temperatures and humidity closely with digital thermometers/hygrometers at both warm and cool ends 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, 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.

Young tree frogs are very active while adults tend to be docile and sedentary. 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. 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.

Diet & Nutrition

Dumpy's 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, dubia roaches, hornworms, and earthworms. Superworms and waxworms may be offered as a treat. Never feed pinky mice to your frog.

Beware! These frogs can be incredibly greedy when it comes to food but also lazy, so obesity is a real problem with this species. Young frogs should be offered food every other day, whatever they will consume in 10-15 minutes. Adults should be offered food no more than 2-3 times a week, whatever they will consume in 10-15 minutes.

Handling & Temperament

Better than most amphibians, Dumpy's tolerate handling rather well. 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, begin handling. Make sure your hands are free of perfumes, lotions, or soaps, and make sure to wash your hands afterward. 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. It's important to note that because of their hearty appetites they may sometimes mistake your finger as food and latch on, but don't worry! They don't have any real biting teeth so their bite does not hurt. Take your time, these frogs can live a long time. They make excellent pets and if you're lucky, you'll have a companion that will keep you smiling for years to come!