



All Creatures Animal Hospital

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Frogs and Toads As Pets

Average Lifespan: 4-15 years depending on species

What's the Difference?

- Frog:
 - o Strong, long, webbed hind feet that are adapted for leaping and swimming
 - o Smooth or slimy skin
 - o Frogs tend to like moister environments
 - o Frogs tend to lay eggs in clusters.
- Toad:
 - o Stubby bodies with short hind legs (for walking instead of hopping)
 - o Warty and dry skin
 - o Toads usually prefer dryer climates
 - o Toads tend to lay eggs in long chains

Diet

- A mixed diet of live foods provides the best nutrition for your frog or toad.
- Foods to give include crickets, feeder fish, houseflies, bloodworms, earth worms, night crawlers or tubifex worms.
- Feeding is only needed three times a week.
- Brine shrimp and wax worms should be given in moderation only as treats.

Grooming/Bathing

- Water must be kept clean with regular changes.

Housing Recommendations

- A screen-topped 5-10 gallon aquarium makes a good home for a frog or toad.
- The more space frogs and toads have, the happier they will be.
- The tank should be kept at a temperature around 75 degrees.
- UV light over the top of the aquarium should be sufficient to provide the light source they need as well as some heat.
- In colder weather you can put a heating pad set on low under one end of the tank to maintain optimum temperatures.
- Provide clean, dechlorinated, fluoride-free water of about one to two inches in a large dish for your frog or toad to lie in. Frogs and toads drink through their skin, so they use the water not only to bathe, but also to drink.
- The addition of rocks to the dish will help your pet get completely out of the water when it wants to. Don't use gravel or rocks small enough for a frog or toad to swallow anywhere in the enclosure.
- Sterile potting soil and moss can be added as a substrate.
- Provide toads and frogs with hiding places.

- High levels of humidity will be required for all frogs so daily misting of the enclosure will be required.
- Frogs will appreciate having natural or artificial vegetation to climb.

Exam Recommendations

- This time spent with our exotic veterinarian allows us to form a preventative plan for your pet. We can analyze your current husbandry and make suggestions.
- Fecal examinations check for internal parasites.
- Physical examinations by our veterinarian assess your amphibian's health.
- It is important to pay close attention to your pet's normal habits, especially eating, and be familiar with their overall appearance.
- If something seems out of the norm, consult a veterinarian as soon as possible. Maintaining a healthy environment is key to keeping a healthy frog or toad.

Common Medical Conditions

- Vitamin A deficiency can occur if your amphibian is not fed a balanced diet. Signs include weight loss and lethargy.
- Bacterial dermatosepticemia, or "Red-Leg Syndrome," is a skin infection that commonly affects frogs and toads causing the skin to appear red due to bleeding under the skin on the legs.
- Edema syndrome, or "dropsy," is when your frog or toad is retaining too much water and appears bloated. This can be painful for your pet and causes strain to the internal organs.