



FIRE-BELLIED TOAD (BOMBINA ORIENTALIS) - Care Sheet

Species logistics: Fire-bellied toads are brightly colored, diurnal, and quite hardy; a combination that's hard to beat. Most are dull to bright green with a bright red, orange or yellow ventral side. Their entire body is covered in warty black spots and blotches, which are broader on their ventral region, and form a reticulated pattern. The dorsal side of some captive toads can be dark muddy green, dark black or brown instead of bright green. It is believed that this is caused by an improper diet, light levels, stress, temperature, humidity, or a combination of all these. Fire-bellied toads reach 1.5 and 2.5 inches (3.8 and 6.3 cm). Males are usually smaller than females, & can be distinguished by their more streamlined appearance and vocal ability. The ventral side of fire-bellied toads is bright to advertise their toxicity, and some will flip over to expose this when threatened.

Enclosure: A standard ten+ gallon aquarium is large enough for a group of 4 adults. Use a secure screen cover to prevent escapes while providing proper ventilation.

Fire-bellied toads are semi-aquatic amphibians that should be provided with both a land and water area. The land area can compose roughly one half to two thirds of the floor area, and should contain hide spots such as cork bark, driftwood, rocks, and live or fake plants. Soil, java moss, or sheet moss, rather than gravel, is a suitable substrate which will prevent the toads from swallowing gravel while eating. These toads rarely swim underwater, but prefer to float at the surface or near a shoreline. The water depth should gradually slope towards the water to allow easy access and exit. Pieces of driftwood, aquatic plants, and rocks can be placed in deep water to allow the toads the chance to rest in water, if needed.



A simple way to create a semi-aquatic setup in a small aquarium is to use a large water dish for a water area. The dish can be as simplistic as a plastic storage container, or large commercially available water dishes. This dish can be submerged into a safe soil substrate, such as coconut husk fiber to provide easy access to the water. Because the volume of water is small in this type of housing, it can become soiled quickly, and for this reason the water should be changed daily. Another suitable habitat is to create a small shoreline setup. 1/2" (1.27cm) gravel can be pushed to one side to form a thick layer of gravel that creates a land area, while the layer of gravel on the other side can remain thin. The aquarium can then be filled with enough water so that the water level remains just below the surface of the land area.

Climate: Fire-bellied toads are tolerant of a wide range of temperatures, which is one of the reasons they make good captives. Daytime temperatures should range from 72°F to 78°F (22°C to 26°C) and can drop at night. Cool temperatures are tolerated well, and occasional drops down to 60°F (16°C) don't present a problem. Avoid temperatures above 85°F (29°C). Provide of a photoperiod of 10-12 hours with fluorescent lighting.

Water: A source of clean water should be available at all times. If tap water is used it should be treated with a tap water conditioner to remove all chlorine, chloramines and heavy metals. Bottled spring water can be used instead of tap water. Change this water daily. Make sure the water level is relatively low as these frogs are not adept at swimming and can drown very easily.

Food: Fire-Bellied eat soft-bodied invertebrates. In captivity they can be fed a diet that consists largely of crickets. Wax worms, and small silkworms can be offered instead of crickets occasionally, and should be placed in a small feeding dish to prevent them from burrowing into the substrate or wandering into the water areas. Moths, houseflies, and other flying insects can also be offered. A feeding schedule of two to six food items per toad every 2 to 3 days usually works well. Juvenile animals should be fed daily in small quantities. It's important that any uneaten food or dead feeders are removed from the enclosure to prevent disease and injury to the toads. You should dust their food with reptile vitamins and calcium once every two to four feedings. Juvenile's should have their food dusted at every feeding.