



GREEN TREE FROG (HYLA CINEREA) - Care Sheet

When purchasing a green tree frog, remember that they are nocturnal animals, and healthy frogs sleep during the day unless they are disturbed or see a food opportunity. Stress is also a common problem with wild-caught green tree frogs, so it's important to monitor them closely for the first few weeks they are being cared for. It may be helpful to individually quarantine green tree frogs for a month in order to closely observe each individual and monitor their health.

Species logistics: Green tree frogs are a medium-sized, arboreal frog, native to the southeast United States. They grow to between 1.5 and 2 inches (4 cm and 5 cm), and vary in color from lime green to brown depending on temperature, humidity, and light. Most green tree frogs have a cream or yellow stripe that runs from the side of their head, down to their hind legs. In addition to this stripe, occasional frogs also have small yellow spots scattered on their back. Their ventral side is white. Albino green tree frogs are occasionally available from breeders and specialty reptile dealers.

Enclosure: These frogs are active at night and need lots of room in captivity. A 15 gallon high aquarium that measures 20 inches long by 10 inches wide by 18 inches high (51cm by 25cm by 46cm) is large enough to house two to four adult frogs, although more room is always better. Always remember the base rule: 10-20 gallons per frog. A secure screen cover is needed to prevent escapes. It may be helpful to cover three sides of the cage with cork board or coconut husk board to reduce stress and make the frogs feel more secure.



A consumption-safe soil, such as coconut husk fiber (bed-a-beast, forest bedding, eco earth...) works really well. coconut husk is the best and keeps humidity levels up and marries well with live plants and mosses. Other substrates that can be used include large river rocks and sphagnum moss. Do not use reptile carpeting because the rough surface can irritate tree frogs skin and can house major bacteria. Avoid gravel, sand or small pieces of bark because they can be dangerous if swallowed. In addition to the substrate, perches and hiding spots should be provided. Driftwood, cork bark tubes, bamboo poles, or even PVC pipe segments can be positioned at different angles in the cage to form perches. Fake or live plants provide cover, working particularly well when draped over the abovementioned perches. Live plants are always best as they also assist with keeping the humidity up. Just be sure you use only safe plants. Live mosses are great to add too, as they love to consume feces. This helps in your clean up efforts.

Climate: During the day, the cage should stay between 72°F (22°C) and 80°F (26.5°C). At night the temperature in the cage can drop to 65°F to 70° (18°C to 21°C) without harm. Green tree frogs are pretty tolerant of occasional out of scope temperature fluctuations. The cage can be heated with a low wattage incandescent light bulb during cool months of the year if needed.

Water: Provide a shallow water dish with clean filtered water in it. This will need to be changed every day or when it appears dirty. Tap water can be used if treated with conditioner to remove chlorine, chloramines and heavy metals or my favorite, use bottled water from a water store or you can buy gallons of filtered water from your local grocer.

Food: Green tree frogs accept a variety of food, including crickets, wax worms, mealworms, small silkworms, red worms, moths, flies and teh ever-popular Phoenix worms. The size of the food item being fed should be about the length of the width of the frog's head, although many green tree frogs are capable of taking bigger prey. The majority of their diet should consist of crickets, with other food items being switched out every few feedings. Feed adult frogs two to six prey every other day depending on the size of the frog and food being offered. Juvenile frogs should be fed daily. High quality reptile vitamins and a high quality calcium should be dusted on their food every two to four feedings for adults, and daily for juveniles. When dusting every day, remember to give the frogs at least one day a week to eat a non-dusted feeding. This will give their kidneys a rest and help prevent stones.