



RED-EYED TREE FROG (AGALYCHNIS CALLIDRYAS) - Care Sheet

The long arms and legs on these frogs are perfectly suited for climbing but are not so good for swimming. Most of the frogs that are in the Hylidae family have a third eye lid called a nictitating membrane. The purpose of this extra eyelid is to shield the frog's sensitive eyes from various hazards. The lid is often brightly colored and does not completely restrict it's vision.

Species logistics: Red eyed tree frogs typically get 2.5 inches to 3 inches (6.35 cm to 7.62 cm). The Red-eyed Tree Frog is a lime green with yellow and cobalt blue along the sides and groin. The hands and feet are marked with a bright orange and are also lined with blue and yellow. The most recognizable physical characteristic of *Agalychnis callidryas* are their bright red eyes.

Enclosure: Red-eyed tree frogs need an enclosure with lots of vertical space. They are arboreal and benefit from cages that taller than longer. A standard 20 gallon aquarium that measures 24 inches long by 12 inches deep by 24 inches high (61 cm by 30 cm by 61 cm) is large enough for two to four adults, although more room is always better. Young frogs should be kept in smaller enclosures. A secure cover is needed to prevent escapes.

The best substrates for the cage include coconut husk fiber (bed-a-beast, forest bed, eco earth, etc.) or other safe soil, sphagnum moss. Coconut husk fiber works well because it holds moisture and is usually safe if swallowed. Gravel and small pieces of bark should be avoided because they can cause blockages if accidentally swallowed while the frog is eating.

In addition to a substrate, red-eyed tree frogs should be provided with perches and hiding areas. Driftwood, bamboo poles, and ghost wood work very well for perches. Live or fake plants can be used to decorate the cage. These can be set up to form hiding places for the frogs. Red-eyed tree frogs spend much of their time hiding on exposed large green leaves, so providing a plant that has large, sturdy, green leaves is ideal. A coconut fiber foam backing or fern tree fiber backing can be added to the side of the cage to reduce stress and make the frog feel secure and can be used to affix air plants and bromeliads to it.



Climate: Red-eyed tree frogs are native to southern Mexico, through Central America, to Northern Colombia and the temperature and humidity level should mimic this environment. During the day the temperature should range from 75F to 85F (24C to 29C). At night the cage can be allowed to cool. Avoid drafty conditions where the temperature fluctuates. A small infrared light bulb can be used to heat the terrarium during both the day and night if necessary.

Maintain moderate to high humidity levels. This can be accomplished by misting the cage with water daily. In particularly dry households, you may find it necessary to restrict ventilation by taping a piece of glass or plastic wrap over part of the screen cage cover, but in most situations this is not needed. Avoiding stagnant conditions by providing good ventilation is more important than maintaining high humidity.

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: Red-eyed tree frogs primarily 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. Moths, houseflies, and other flying insects can also be offered. Adult red-eyed tree frogs can be fed three to six food items every two to three days. Juveniles should be fed daily. 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. It's best to feed at night when red-eyed tree frogs are active and on the hunt.