



WHITE'S TREE FROG (*LITORIA CAERULEA*) - Care Sheet

White's tree frogs are large, arboreal frogs native to Australia, New Guinea, and surrounding islands. Their common name is derived from the scientist that described the frog. Their colors range from a dark, dirty brown to a light green. There is also a blue/teal variation. Occasionally individuals will have yellow or white dots present on the dorsal sides. Their ventral side varies from cream to pinkish-white. Like many other tree frogs, White's tree frogs have the ability to change color depending on environmental conditions. These frogs are not terribly fearful of human touch and will gladly eat right out of your hand, if given the opportunity. They have also been known to call back to humans mimicking the males mating call. Great fun at parties.

Species logistics: These frogs are among the larger species of tree frog and range in size from 3.0 to 4.5 inches (7.6cm to 11.4cm) and some individuals have even been reported at over a whopping 5" (12.7cm).

Enclosure: Being as these frogs are large and very active at night, they require a spacious cage to live in. A standard 20 gallon aquarium is sufficient for babies to young adults. Once adulthood is reached, a 30-40 gallon aquarium is large enough for two adult tree frogs, although providing more space is always recommended. A secure screen cover is essential to prevent escapes. It may be beneficial to affix a cork board background or black aquarium background to all by one side of the cage to make your frogs feel secure. Although I have not found this to be totally necessary.



The best components of the enclosure should consist of substrate, wood perches, and hiding areas. There are a number of substrate options available, but coconut husk fiber (bed-a-beast, forest bed, eco earth, etc.) or other safe soil tends to work the best. Gravel, sand, small pieces of bark and reptile cage carpeting should be avoided because they either have potential to be unsafe if swallowed, or can be irritating to the frog. White's tree frogs are arboreal and should be provided with multiple perches. Driftwood, cork bark tubes, live wooded plants, and bamboo poles can be positioned at angles to allow the frogs ample perching locations. Perches can also serve as hiding areas, especially when live or fake plants are draped over them.

Climate: White's tree frogs are tolerant of a wide range of temperatures. The ideal day temperature should be between 75°F - 85°F (24°C - 29°C.) At night, the temperature can be lowered to 70°F - 75°F (21°C - 24°C). Occasional days outside of this range are tolerated by healthy frogs. A low wattage infra-red heat lamp can be positioned above part of the cage if heating is needed. An infra-red light bulb will also allow you to observe the frog at night without disturbing it. Hot rocks and other heating devices, as always, aren't safe for amphibians and should be avoided.

Humidity levels can range from 30% to 70%. A light misting every day in dry climates or every other day in more humid climates will help ensure proper humidity. White's tree frogs, like many other tree frogs, do not tolerate soggy, stagnant conditions as they are from a dryer Australian climate. So make certain that the cage isn't sprayed too heavily and that adequate ventilation is provided. Live plants will also help to maintain a more consistent 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.

Food: White's tree frogs eat a wide variety of soft-bodied invertebrates. In captivity they can be fed a diet that consists largely of crickets. Mealworms, wax worms, red wigglers, night crawlers, roaches, horn worms and silkworms can be offered instead of crickets occasionally, and can be placed in a feeding dish to prevent them from burrowing into the substrate. Moths, houseflies, and other flying insects can also be offered. Adult White's can be fed three to eight food items every two to three days. Juveniles should be fed on a daily basis. Adults should have their food coated with high quality reptile vitamin and mineral supplements once every two to four feedings, while juvenile's should have their food dusted with supplements at every feeding. It's best to feed at night when the frogs are active and on the hunt.