



General care

Most problems with tree frogs are caused by nutritional deficiencies having been fed inappropriate or unvaried diets or from inadequate attention to enclosure cleanliness.

Tree frogs are susceptible to wounds, these can become easily infected, especially if the accommodation has not been kept clean.

Fungal infections can be a problem and can often be fatal.

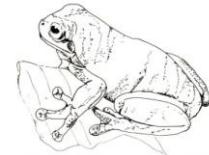
Only frogs of similar size should be housed together since smaller specimens are likely to be cannibalised by their larger brethren.



Shopping List

✓		✓
Vivarium with tight fitting lid	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moisture-retentive substrate
Food	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heat pad, lamp
Branches, plants, etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thermostat
Water Bowl	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Book that covers tree frog care	<input type="checkbox"/>	

This leaflet is produced by the Pet Care Trust, the national charity that promotes the benefits of pet ownership and education within the pet care industry. For more information go to www.petcare.org.uk, or phone 08700 624 400.



Remember you must never release your pet into the wild.

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CARING FOR YOUR WHITE'S TREE FROG

White's tree frogs also known as Dumpy Tree Frog, Smiling Frog originates from Indonesia, New Guinea and Australia White's.

They are arboreal and live in trees. Their feet are equipped with suction cups and they can climb on smooth surfaces with ease.

The colour varies from Green through blue to dark brown. The smooth wax like green skin has a folded appearance as the White's tree frog tend to become overweight.

The average size is 10 cm in length, with the female being larger than the male.

Lifespan can exceed ten years under ideal conditions.





Choosing and buying your Tree Frog

A healthy White's Tree Frog should be:

- ❖ Full bodied
- ❖ No scars or wounds on the skin or nose
- ❖ Bright and alert



Housing

Ideal accommodation would be tall vivarium of plastic, glass or wooden construction (wood surfaces will need to be resin sealed in order to protect the wood from the regular spraying of the enclosure. A tight-fitting mesh screen lid will help provide good ventilation and access for securing light and heat fittings. The enclosure should be provisioned with stout branches and either live and/or plastic plants. A moisture-retentive substrate such as coconut soil should be used on the bottom of the enclosure and the enclosure should receive a light misting each evening. A wide but shallow water bowl should be provided and this should hold either de-chlorinated water or rain water.

Heating

Tree frogs are cold blooded and need an external heat source to maintain their body temperature. Only one side of the vivarium should be heated. This creates a thermal gradient allowing the animal to choose its preferred temperature. Thermometers can be placed at each end of this thermal gradient to monitor the temperature range available. The temperature of the heat gradient can be controlled by a thermostat. It is advisable to reduce the temperature slightly at night.

The temperature range should be around 24 degrees centigrade at the coolest spot and go up to around 30 underneath the basking spot.. A night time reduction to around 18 degrees is beneficial. Heating can be achieved by a combination of heat mats/heat tapes and a moderate strength UVB spot bulb.

Lighting

Although White's Tree Frog is primarily nocturnal, light is needed to regulate its biological clocks. Furthermore, natural light fluorescent tubes will be required for the growth of plants included in the enclosure. The light should be set on a timer with a twelve hour on and twelve hour off cycle.



Feeding and Water

Food variety is important, most will take invertebrates such as crickets, locusts, wax moth larvae and occasionally mealworms. Pinky mice are almost always welcome but should not be offered all the time.

All uneaten food must be removed if not eaten overnight. They have very strong appetites but should only be fed 3-4 small meals per week otherwise they are likely to become obese.



Handling

Handle your tree frog as little as possible, if you do need to handle either use wet hands or catch in a net.