

Green Tree Frog

Genus: *Hyla* sp.
Family: Hylidae
Order: Anura
Class: Amphibia
Phylum: Chordata
Kingdom: Animalia



Conditions for Customer Ownership

We are a USDA compliant facility and hold all necessary permits to transport our organisms. Each state is assisted by the USDA to determine which organisms can be transported across state lines. Some organisms may require end-user permits. Please contact your local regulatory authorities with questions or concerns. To access permit conditions, [click here](#).

Never purchase living specimens without having a disposition strategy in place. Live specimens should not be released into the wild! Please dispose of any unwanted organisms using the guidelines below.

Primary Hazard Considerations

Always wash your hands thoroughly before and after you handle your tree frog, its food, or anything it has touched. Like most amphibians, tree frogs absorb moisture through their skin. If you have any kind of chemical residue on your hands, it could harm the frog.

Availability

Tree frogs are available year round; they are collected from various areas in the Southeastern U.S. They will arrive in a large plastic container packed with sphagnum moss. Upon arrival you should immediately place your frogs into a new home. The frogs can survive 1–2 days in the container they were shipped in after you receive them. When removing the frogs from their container, be careful, they may jump out. The frogs will be about an inch to two inches long and green in color. If the weather outside is cold, allow your frog to warm to room temperature before transferring them into a habitat.

Captive Care

Habitat:

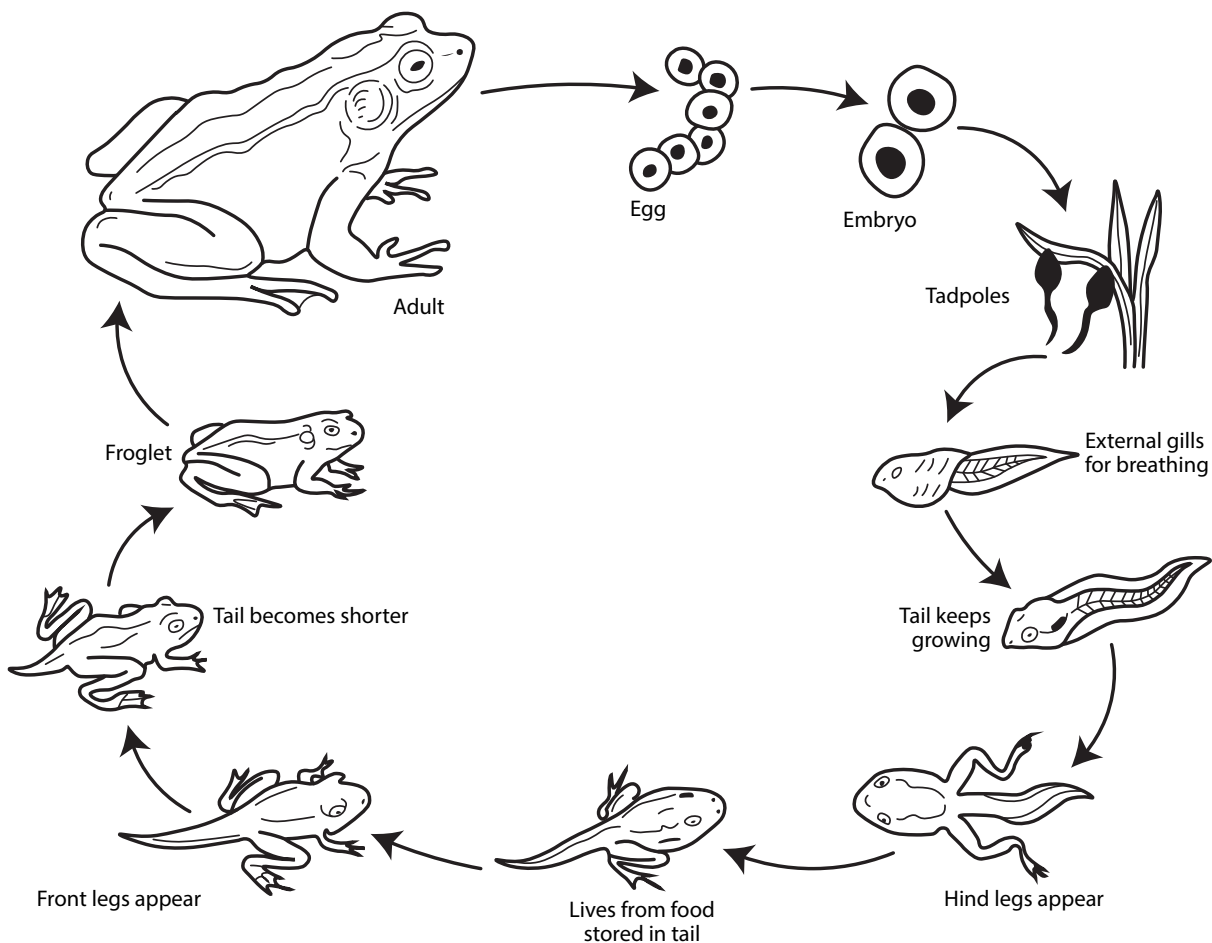
- Use a 2–10-gallon plastic terrarium or glass aquarium with a screen top. Use a minimum of half a gallon of space per each frog.
- A substrate of sphagnum moss (470014-980), pebbles (470025-210), or paper towel can be used. Artificial plants (470040-392) or a small stick can be provided for climbing and hiding. Tree frogs should be kept at room temperature (70–80°F) and high humidity (70–80%; this can be achieved with daily misting with de-chlorinated water). They do not require any sort of special lighting or heat. They generally prefer darker surroundings. When the frogs are not being observed, keep them in a low traffic area on a shelf or table.
- A dish of fresh water, at least 2" deep and 6" wide should be provided to allow the frogs something to drink, as well as to bathe in. Change the water daily using de-chlorinated tap water, or spring or pond water. Tap water can be de-chlorinated by letting it sit out for 48 hours or by adding a de-chlorinating solution (such as Fluval® Aquaplus 470308-824).

• **Care:**

- The diet of tree frogs consists of a variety of living small invertebrates. They can be fed wingless fruit flies (470180-454), cricket nymphs (470180-336), and other small insects. They should be fed every other day about 2–4 crickets. Once a week, the food should be dusted with a vitamin and mineral supplement such as Reptivite (470021-386) that provides nutrition that they require.
- Mist frogs and habitat daily with fresh de-chlorinated water to ensure high humidity (70–80%).
- Every other week, clean the frogs’ habitat by washing the walls of the tank with water (no soap) and changing the substrate.

Information

- **Method of Reproduction:** Sexual and seasonal—Male tree frogs engage in a mating ritual, well known for their cowbell-like breeding calls, that begins in early spring and lasts through June. Reproduction occurs when the male frog grasps the female’s body with its forelimbs and forces the eggs out of her body, generally into water. The male then spreads sperm across the egg mass, thus fertilizing the eggs. This is known as external fertilization.
- **Sexing:** *Male:* typically smaller than the female (about 1.25–2"). Produces loud breeding sounds during mating season. *Female:* Larger than males (about 2–2.5"). Can sometimes be seen with eggs under translucent belly skin during breeding season.



Life Cycle

- **Egg:** 40–100 laid in water at a time, with up to 600 laid in one breeding season. Eggs take 4–10 days to hatch. Eggs appear black in color with a clear gel covering. They are about 1 mm in size.
- **Tadpole:** Remains in water in this stage for about two months while it undergoes metamorphosis. As the tadpole grows, it will develop hind limbs first, then the forelimbs.
- **Frog:** Once the tadpole has limbs and absorbed its tail, the small froglet will be able to live on the land. It will continue to grow, and becomes sexually mature and full grown in approximately 10–12 months. An adult frog can live anywhere from 2–5 years.

Wild Habitat

The green tree frog is found from eastern Texas east to Florida and as far north as Virginia. They are found near lakes, ponds, swamps, or anywhere where still water is present. They can be found resting in trees or on twigs near these areas. In the wild, they will eat grasshoppers, flies, and moths. A tree frogs' major predators are snakes, bullfrogs, and birds.

Disposition

We do not recommend releasing any non-native animal into the wild since it may have unforeseen effects on our environment.

- Adoption is the preferred disposition of a vertebrate.
- If a capable owner cannot adopt the animal, it may be surrendered to your local humane society.
- If the animal must be euthanized, we recommend consulting the AVMA guidelines on euthanasia (American Veterinary Medical Association, [Guidelines-on-Euthanasia-2020.pdf](#)). A licensed veterinarian is your best choice to euthanize a reptile. The AVMA considers freezing a reptile without anesthesia to be an inhumane method of euthanasia.
- A deceased specimen should be disposed of as soon as possible. Consult your school's recommended procedures for disposal. In general, a small dead vertebrate should be handled with gloves, wrapped in an absorbent material (e.g., newspaper), wrapped again in an opaque plastic bag, then placed inside a opaque plastic bag that is sealed (tied tightly) before being placed in a general garbage container away from students.