White's Tree Frog

470312-390 and 470312-402

Species: *caerulea*
Genus: *Litoria*
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

Frogs can harbor bacteria. Always wash your hands thoroughly before and after you handle your frog, its food, or anything it has touched. Like most amphibians, frogs can absorb moisture, oils, and chemicals through their skin. If you have any kind of residue on your hands, such as lotion or soap, it could harm the frog.

Availability

White's Tree Frogs are generally available throughout the year.

Arrival Care

Your frog is shipped in a plastic container with damp sphagnum moss as cushioning. It should be placed in a prepared habitat shortly after arrival. If you like, the moss can also be placed in the habitat. Keep it damp to maintain humidity, but replace it when soiled. Be careful when removing your frog from the container, it is likely to jump. If they do get out, rinse them with distilled or spring water before returning them to the habitat.

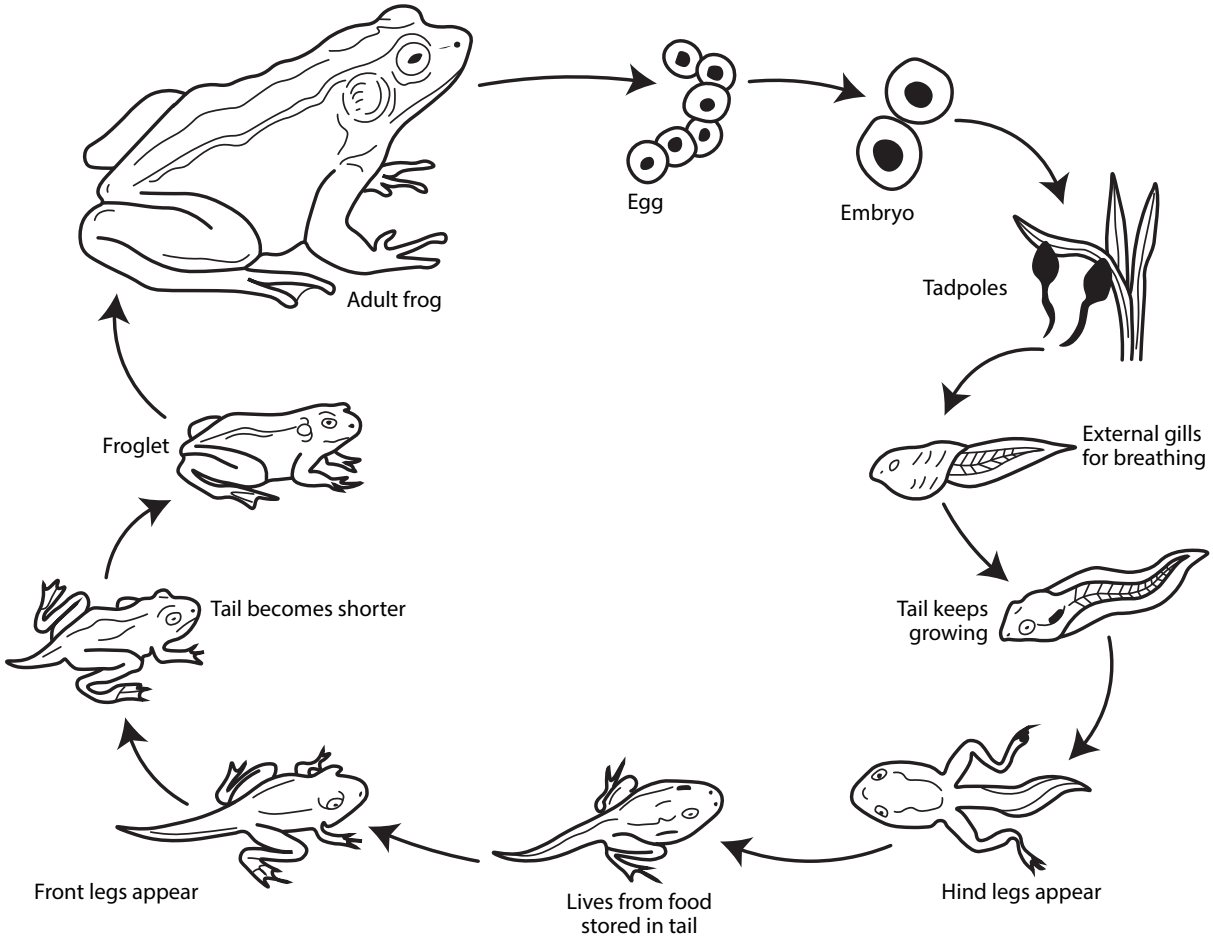
Captive Care

Habitat:

Use a 5–10-gallon plastic or glass aquarium/terrarium. A taller, rather than wider, terrarium is preferred. The top should allow for air circulation, but also hold in humidity. (Example: a screen lid that has a piece of plastic or plastic wrap partially covering the top, that can be adjusted back and forth to control humidity levels.) The floor should be left bare or lined with large pieces of rock or bark. Small bits may be accidentally eaten. These frogs like to climb and hide. Provide plenty of heavy vines and leafy branches, preferably something that can be disinfected (plastic). If you use natural items, make sure there are no pesticide residues or other chemicals. Replace these items when soiled.

Care:

- **Temperature, Humidity, and Light:** These are tropical frogs so they should be kept at 75–85°F (a little cooler at night is OK) and a relatively high humidity of about 50–60%. Humidity can be maintained by spraying lightly with non-chlorinated water or by keeping the substrate damp. They also need good air circulation, so never cover the top completely.
- No special lighting is needed. If you do use a light, make sure it doesn't get too hot or dry out the frog. If heat is needed, use a heat mat (#470308-860) that can be placed on one side of the terrarium, allowing the frog to move toward or away from it, as it chooses.
- **Food:** Feed an adult frog 7–8 large crickets (#470180-328) 2–3 times per week. Remove any uneaten crickets after about 15 minutes. These frogs can overeat, so reduce the amount of food if it starts to get too heavy. Crickets are the main food item and should be dusted, at every other feeding, with calcium powder containing vitamin D3. Mealworms (470176-752), waxworms (470184-798), superworms (470180-360) or other similar-sized insects may be used for some variety.
- **Water:** Provide your frog with a shallow dish of unchlorinated (spring or distilled) water. Make it deep enough that they can submerge themselves but can get out easily. A clean rock or a plastic stem can be added for exiting ease.
- **Care:** Spot clean the habitat weekly, removing any leftover food debris. Clean and refill the water dish as needed.
- **Health:** White's Tree frogs are susceptible to chytridiomycosis, a fatal disease caused by the chytrid fungus. This fungus affects many species of frogs around the world. Do not expose your frog to wild frogs.



Information

- **Method of reproduction:** Tree frogs reproduce sexually. Artificial conditions must mimic the natural conditions for mating to occur. The female will lay 200 to 500 eggs in water. These hatch into tadpoles in a couple days. The tadpoles will start to develop into frogs at about 4 weeks, depending on temperature. The frog should reach adulthood in about 14 weeks. This frog can grow up to 4.5 to 5" in body length and can live up to 8 years.
- **Determining Sex:** Sexing a White's Tree Frog is somewhat difficult. Females are generally larger than males. Males also have enlarged, darkened "nuptial" pads at the base of their thumbs, on the underside of the front feet.

Wild Habitat

White's Tree Frogs are native to tropical areas in New Guinea and Australia.

Special Notes

- John White is the name of the scientist who first described this species.
- These frogs are sometimes called Dumpy Tree Frogs or Australian Green Tree Frogs.
- They can live up to 20 years in captivity.
- More than one frog can be kept in the terrarium, provided there is sufficient room.
- Tree frogs are cannibalistic. A large frog can eat a smaller frog. If you keep more than one, make sure they are of similar size.
- These frogs are covered with a waxy coating that helps protect them. They are somewhat more tolerant of handling than most frogs.
- A White's Tree Frog can learn to take food from your hand.
- These frogs can vary in color from white to turquoise, green or brown. They can also change color depending on environmental conditions.
- Tree frogs are nocturnal and will be more active at night.

Disposition

We do not recommend releasing any laboratory animal into the wild. As a laboratory animal, it has not encountered or learned wild survival skills and is therefore likely to come to an inhumane end. This species may also do damage to local species by spreading disease or out-competing them for food and habitat.

- Adoption is the preferred disposition for a vertebrate.
- If the animal cannot be adopted by a capable owner, 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). According to these guidelines, acceptable methods of euthanasia for an amphibian include exposure to CO_2 at >60% or treatment with tricaine methane sulfonate (also known as TMS, MS-222 and Biocalm 947-2100). TMS is an anesthetizing agent that will cause fish and amphibian death due to central nervous system depression and hypoxia with overexposure. Wear personal protective equipment (gloves, safety glasses, lab coat) when handling this substance. The fish or amphibian is placed in a solution of 5g per 5 gallons of water for 30 minutes or until all motion has ceased. To make sure the animal is dead, check for reflexive movement when the eye is touched. If movement occurs, replace the animal in the TMS solution for another 30 minutes.
- A deceased specimen should be disposed of as soon as possible. Consult your school's recommended procedures for disposal. In general, a dead vertebrate should be handled with gloves, and 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.

5100 West Henrietta Road • PO Box 92912 • Rochester, New York 14692-9012 • p: 800 962-2660 • wardsci.com