

CARE GUIDE

WHITE'S TREE FROG

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Common Name	White's Tree Frog, Dumpy Tree Frog, Australian Green Tree Frog, Green Tree Frog
Scientific Name	<i>Litoria caerulea</i>
Average Size	Length: 7cm to 11.5cm (3 - 4.5") Weight: Females are typically a bit larger than males.
Average Lifespan	Approximately 16 years, can live up to 20 years with proper care
Oldest in Captivity (if known)	In captivity and with proper husbandry, WTF can live up to 20 years.
Natural Range	Northern and Eastern Australia, Southern New Guinea, Indonesia, and has been introduced to New Zealand. They prefer forested and scrubland environments; they can live in seasonally dry habitats. Often found in tree canopies near water.
Temperament	Docile, curious
Behaviour	WTF are nocturnal, which means they are most active at night. They enjoy climbing and jumping around their enclosure, but may also be a bit lazy. Plenty of climbing opportunities should be provided for this species, to encourage them to explore and exhibit natural behaviours in their enclosure. Ledges that can be attached to the walls of the enclosure are very popular for this species, as they will often rest on them. This species can climb glass, which means the enclosure must have a secure lid to prevent the frog from escaping. WTF can be very vocal, particularly around breeding season. Females will not croak as loudly or as often as males.
Cohabitation	This species typically does well when cohabitated in groups of 2 - 8, but the enclosure size must accommodate for more inhabitants. Individual frogs may prefer to be alone; it is important to monitor your WTF if choosing to cohabitate and have an additional enclosure available if they need to be separated.
Activity Level	Nocturnal (most active at night)
Conservation Status	IUCN status - Least Concern
Enclosure Size	18"x18"x24" minimum. More space is always better! If you are able to provide an enclosure larger than the minimum requirement, they will use the extra space. If choosing to cohabitate, an additional 20 gallons per frog is required. Their enclosure should contain plenty of clutter to help the animal feel secure. Multiple hiding spots should be placed around the enclosure, as well as plenty of climbing opportunities.

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Enclosure Materials	<p>Glass: difficult to maintain temperatures and humidity. Has a reflective surface that can stress animals out. Heavy, difficult to move, and easy to break. Difficult to find in large sizes, or may be very expensive.</p> <p>Wood: heavy, difficult to move. Easier to maintain temperatures and humidity than glass. Needs to be sealed or it will rot.</p> <p>PVC: light-weight, easy to move. Best material to maintain temperatures and humidity. Does not rot, can seal seams to hold water. More expensive. There are different grades of PVC that affect its ability to bend/warp/deform, resist scratching, etc; you get what you pay for when it comes to PVC.</p>
Temperature Range	<p>24 - 29 degrees Celsius (75 - 85F). A vertical temperature gradient should be provided (warmer at the top of the tank, cooler towards the bottom).</p>
Humidity Range	<p>50% - 70% humidity. Misting the tank every night as needed will provide the needed humidity spike of up to 80%. Maintaining humidity for this species is extremely important, as the frog could potentially dry out without proper humidity levels.</p> <p>Fresh water should be provided daily in a bowl. The bowl should be large enough for them to be able to soak in.</p> <p>Any water provided for a White's Tree Frogs must be treated with a reptile-safe water conditioner before being used for misting or placed in a water bowl. Since this species has semi-permeable skin, any chemicals such as chlorine that may be in the water would be absorbed into their body, which can be very harmful to their health.</p>
Lighting	<p>A 12-hour day-night cycle should be provided. An LED light can be used for this purpose to avoid overheating the animal.</p>
Heating	<p>Depending on the temperature of your house, overhead heating may not be required due to the heat sensitivity of this species. A deep heat projector/DHP is useful for White's tree frogs as it can provide heat during the day or night without disturbing them. A thermostat must be used with the heat source to ensure that the animal does not overheat. The probe should be placed near the top of the enclosure.</p>

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UVB	<p>White's tree frogs are exposed to Ferguson Zone 1 in their natural habitat, which means they are shade dwellers and are exposed to a UV index of 0 - 0.7 on average, and their exposure should not exceed 1.4 in their basking zone. A low level UVB light should be used to prevent overexposure, and lots of coverage should be offered to mimic the brush and tree foliage they would naturally be surrounded by.</p> <p>The notion that crepuscular and nocturnal species do not benefit from UVB is a myth. Species that fall into these categories have still been witnessed basking or cryptic basking during the day to help synthesize vitamin D. UVB has numerous benefits for the health of the reptile (ranging from the proper absorption of calcium to boosting their immune systems), and all species should be provided with appropriate UVB lighting to best mimic their natural environments.</p>
Substrate	<p>Tropical substrates are the best option for WTF. These substrates are usually a mix of organic top soil, peat moss, and coconut coir. You can either create a mix yourself, or purchase premixed soil. Placing leaf litter on top of the substrate is recommended as it assists with maintaining humidity levels. A drainage layer is recommended to prevent the soil from becoming too muddy and to help with the humidity as the water will pool in the drainage layer. Leca, or clay balls, should be placed at the bottom of the terrarium followed by a layer of drainage mesh (similar to what is used in gardens before you place top soil). The substrate is then placed on top of the mesh. This prevents the soil from mixing in with the leca. If planning to make a bioactive terrarium, a drainage layer is essential to ensure the plants thrive.</p>
Handling	<p>WTF can become accustomed to handling, however they do have an extremely sensitive skin. These frogs have semi-permeable skin, which means any chemicals or oils on your skin can be absorbed through their skin and into their body. When handling a WTF, you must make sure that your hands are clean and free of any lotions, perfumes, soaps, or other potential contaminants that may be harmful to the frog. An alternative option is to wear powder-free nitrile gloves during handling.</p> <p>Handling should be kept to short periods of time, depending on the individual animal. Short sessions lasting a few minutes.</p>
Feeding	<p>Baby WTF should be fed daily. Juvenile WTF should be fed every other day. Adult White's tree frogs should only be fed once every 3 - 7 days. They can be fed 2 - 3 insects per feeding.</p> <p>Obesity is a common problem in this species, over feeding must be avoided to ensure that your frog lives a long, healthy life!</p> <p>You may need to use rubber-tipped tongs to feed a WTF, particularly when feeding crickets.</p>

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Diet	<p>WTF are insectivores, which means they eat live insects, such as crickets, super worms, large black soldier fly larvae, and night crawlers.</p> <p>Dead, freeze-dried, or bugs from outside should not be to fed to reptiles or amphibians. Dead and freeze-dried bugs do not contain enough nutrition. Bugs from outside likely have parasites which can be transmitted to the animal, or they may have pesticides or other harmful chemicals on them which will have serious consequences if your pet ingests them.</p>
Multivitamin + supplements	<p>Feeders should be dusted with calcium powder at every feeding. If you are supplying your frog with UVB, the calcium powder should not contain D3. If you are not supplying your frog with a UVB light, calcium powder with D3 must be used.</p> <p>Multivitamins can be dusted onto their feeders once a week.</p>

The information in this care guide is based on both practical experience as well as research papers published by reputable sources. Reptile husbandry is constantly evolving as we learn more about these remarkable creatures, never rely on one source for information and always strive to learn more.