



White's Tree Frog Diet and Care Recommendations

GENERAL INFORMATION

White's Tree frog (*Pelodryas caerulea*), also known as Dumpy Tree Frogs originate from Australia and New Guinea. Their average lifespan is 10-15 years. They grow to about 4-5" with the females being slightly larger than the males.

Diet: 100% crickets gut loaded with T-Rex Calcium plus or ILF formula or Fluker's high calcium diet. You can also offer silkworms and Phoenix worms. Avoid waxworms and mealworms because they are high in fat and phosphorus. Do not supplement with vitamin dusts.

Temperature: These frogs do well in a range between 75-80 degrees Fahrenheit on the hot end and 70-75 degrees Fahrenheit on the cool end. All amphibians need a temperature gradient to thermoregulate and control their body temperature. This essentially means you need to provide a warm and a cool side to your enclosure. All the heat elements should be on one side and the other will be the cool side. This way your frog can move back and forth between the different temperatures depending on its needs.



The rest of the enclosure can be normal room temperature (around 72). Use a good quality temperature gauge, like Zoo Meds digital temp gauge or Exo Terras Thermometer to figure out the temperatures in your enclosure. It is recommended to use either a mercury vapor bulb (which has both heat and UV) or ceramic heat emitters plus a regular heat bulb. Never use heat rocks or heating pads, as they can cause severe burns.

In the wild, this mostly nocturnal species lives on the forest floor and does not get a lot of UVB rays, however they still require a UVB light.

Humidity: Always provide a shallow water dish with fresh water. Change the water at least once a day. Like all amphibians, these guys are quite sensitive to toxins in their environments. So not use strong smelling cleaning products, scented candles, or incense in the room with your frog. Try for humidity around 70-80%. Misting the enclosure at least once or twice a day will usually provide enough moisture, but a nice humidity gauge can help you in this area. Hand misters are usually sufficient but if you don't care to remember to mist, an automatic mister like the Exo Terra monsoon is a nice option. Exo Terra bowls or Flukers rock dishes are nice naturalistic non-porous water bowls. Frogs drink by sitting in their water bowls and absorbing it through their skin. Do NOT use distilled water for the water bowl. Distilled water has no salts or minerals in it and as such messes with the frogs ability to regulate the water in its cells. A process called osmotic regulation. Death can result from this as well.

Temperament: White's Tree Frogs are incredibly docile amphibians that are unafraid of humans and often live in close contact with people throughout its habitat. They are nocturnal, so they are more active in the evening and at night. They are also sedentary and don't like to jump as much as other tree frogs. When they feel threatened, they can emit an ear piercing distress call.

ENVIRONMENT

White's Tree Frogs should be kept in a cage that provides them with plenty of space to move around, climb, and hide. Tall cages are best with a lot of vertical branches and foliage. A 20 gallon long or an 18x18x12 front opening enclosure is sufficient.

Substrate: As this species is arboreal, a good substrate that facilitates this behavior, such as coco fiber, is best. Live plants that root in multiple places and don't need a lot of nutrients from the soil are ideal for this type of setup. Avoid all types of sand, including calci sand. Sands can be ingested causing blockages in the intestines. Also avoid corncob bedding because it can grow fungus and cause health problems.

Moisture: Provide a large dish of water for soaking and defecating, Change the water daily with filtered or bottled spring water (NOT DISTILLED)

MEDICAL CARE

Exams: A yearly exam is recommended as well as a fecal parasite check.