

# Green Treefrog

The green treefrog is common throughout the southeast United States, and their presence is best known by their call, which can be heard from nearly a mile away on a still night. Their breeding season is quite extensive, and in Florida they can breed from April until October. They prefer more permanent water than some of the other treefrogs, and will even breed in water that contains fish.

Often they will call during a falling barometer, such as before a rain. Like most treefrogs breeding takes place at night, but intermittent choruses can be heard in the daytime, especially in the late afternoon, and during the actual breeding they will call continuously deep into the night, often in the company of other species of frogs and toads.

- **Common Name:** Green Treefrog
- **Scientific Name:** *Hyla cinerea*
- **Distribution:** Southeast United States
- **Size:** About 2 inches from snout to anus, but from personal experience these will reach about three inches in captivity.
- **Life Span:** Expected to live 5 - 6 years.

## Habitat

A minimum 10-gallon tank is suitable as a cage for green tree frogs, although larger is fine.

Keep in mind that these frogs are arboreal and the height of the cage is more important than the floor space, so a tall tank is best. You also need a secure cover to prevent escape (mesh or wire is fine).

An opportunity for climbing is very important, so provide a variety

of branches and/or live or artificial plants. Consider philodendrons or sturdy ferns for live plants. Ensure any wood collected from the outdoors is pesticide free, and you must treat collected wood to remove harmful bacteria or bugs. Driftwood and cork bark also make good cage furnishings.

### **Heating**

A gradient from 68-77 F with a nighttime drop of a few degrees is sufficient for summer; provide a slightly cooler temperature gradient during the winter months.

A combination of under tank heating and/or a low wattage basking light or heat element work well; place it outside of the tank to prevent burns if the frog tried to jump on the light. Measure temperatures in various spots around the tank to provide the appropriate temperature gradient.

### **Lighting**

American green treefrogs are strictly nocturnal, so no supplemental UVA/UVB light is strictly required.

Some people believe some supplemental fluorescent UV light is beneficial, as long as it is neither too bright or used more than a few hours a day.

### **Substrates**

You can use a variety of materials for substrate such as smooth gravel, cypress mulch, or soil with peat/vermiculite. Just make sure the frog is not ingesting substrate while feeding. Some people use indoor/outdoor carpeting. The substrate can largely be covered with moss and cork bark.

### **Nutrition**

Green tree frogs are generally good eaters and feed exclusively

on insects. Crickets can make up the bulk of the diet. They, along with other food insects, should be gut loaded (fed nutritious foods before feeding them to the frogs).

In addition to gut loading, dust crickets with a calcium and multivitamin supplement a couple of times a week. Fruit flies, houseflies, moths, and other insects can also be fed if available.

Tree frogs will likely eat more in the spring and summer months than in the winter. Feed smaller/younger frogs daily, while larger/older frogs can be fed daily or every other day, using body condition as a guide. If your frog starts getting obese, cut down the feedings!

Provide a large, shallow sturdy water dish with dechlorinated water; it must be shallow since these frogs are not good swimmers. Mist the cage daily with dechlorinated water to maintain humidity.

### **A Note on Extinction**

Frogs can make lovely pets, but frogs in the wild are facing population declines and extinction largely as a result of human activities.

For this reason, you should only buy frogs that you are sure are captive bred and tested to be free of disease. It is impossible to find frogs which meet these conditions from the wild.

This is only a basic care sheet,

Please continue to educate yourself on your new family member.