

# White's Treefrog

White's Tree Frogs are an incredibly docile amphibian that is unafraid of humans and often lives in close contact with people throughout its habitat. These chubby frogs are also known as Dumpy Tree Frogs because of their pudgy bodies and the large bulges they grow above their heads as adults. These large frogs are a pleasant green base color, sometimes with a bluish hue, and some individuals have spots of white or gold on the back and sides. Adults tend to have a fatty ridge above each eye, often giving them a sleepy appearance.

- **Common Name:** White's Treefrog, Dumpy Frog and Australian Green Treefrog
- **Scientific Name:** *Litoria caerulea*
- **Distribution:** Northern and Eastern Australia, and adjoining New Guinea
- **Size:** 3-4.5 inches. Adults can reach up to 5 inches, but most females top out at 4-4.5 inches in snout-to-vent length. Males are usually slightly smaller but size alone is not a good criterion for sexing these animals. Captive bred specimens are usually less than 2 inches long when sold. Males have a vocal sac, and they can have dark nuptial pads on the base of their thumbs. These may not be present in young animals though, so sexing these in the pet store is difficult. Even expert breeders cannot guarantee the sex of a young frog.
- **Life Span:** In captivity these frogs have lived over 20 years, but a more common age would be 7-10 years. They don't have any real defensive capabilities other than camouflage, so their lifespan in the wild is likely shorter due to the risk of predation.

## Lighting, Temperature and Humidity

The frogs themselves do not require lighting of any kind, but if you

choose to grow plants, a freshwater aquarium light is a good choice. Fluorescent models give out less heat than incandescent ones, and overheating and rapid drying can stress these frogs. A good daytime temperature is about 80 F. This can be achieved by using a reptile heat mat on the side of the terrarium with a thermostat. Slightly cooler nighttime conditions will simulate temperature changes found in the wild. A tight-fitting but ventilated terrarium lid is a necessity – lack of ventilation can cause respiratory problems.

### **Substrates**

The substrate should be a fine particulate soil or ground coconut fiber. This will retain moisture well and the small particle size will not impact the frog's gut if any is ingested accidentally.

### **Nutrition**

Gut-loaded crickets are a good staple food. Feed as many crickets as the frogs will eat in 10-15 minutes. For adults, feed 2-3 times per week. For youngsters, feed every 1-2 days. Earthworms are another staple food. Treat foods include waxworms, mealworms, and superworms but these are very fatty so they shouldn't be feed these often.

Humidity should be maintained by regular misting with distilled water. You can also use a water bowl (use spring water or dechlorinated tap water in bowls) in case the humidity changes suddenly and the frogs need water.

### **Handling and Temperament**

Unlike most amphibians, White's treefrogs tolerate handling quite well. They can even become quite accustomed to it. Due to the delicate and permeable nature of their skin, be sure your hands are soap and cream free before handling, and wash your hands well afterwards.

## **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.