



African Clawed Frogs *Xenopus laevis*

- African clawed frogs are aquatic species of frogs inhabiting much of sub Saharan Africa. Introduced populations also occur in several other areas of the world.
- They are unusual, dorso-ventrally flattened frogs ranging in color from brownish, grayish, to olive. Albinos are also commonly seen as well.
- Frogs from this family lack tongues, do not call, and have three distinct claws on each hind foot.
- If provided the proper care, these frogs can attain longevity of 10-15 years or more.

Size

African clawed frogs typically reach up to 4 to 5 ½”.

Housing

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured lid or aquarium hood. These frogs are fully aquatic and never use dry land. Clawed frogs can be housed communally, but require a minimum of a 10 gallon amount of space per frog. Use a quality canister filter and conditioner to help maintain cleanliness inside the aquarium but use an outlet. Clawed frogs do not tolerate distinct water flow as many fish do. Allow aquarium to cycle for at least 2-3 weeks prior to introduction of clawed frogs. Live or artificial plants can be for added security and hiding opportunities, but ensure they are sturdy and cannot easily be shredded or uprooted by the frog(s). Provide ample hiding areas inside and around the tank using backdrops, log or cave hides, driftwood, rocks, or other furnishings. Substrate is not required, but larger pebbles that cannot be swallowed, or aquarium sand can be used safely with African clawed frogs.

If keeping multiple clawed frogs within a single tank, provide adequate space and food to prevent them from nipping one another. Do not keep fish with clawed frogs.

These frogs do not require any special lighting, but fluorescent or incandescent lighting can be used. Maintain these frogs within a temperature range of 70-75 degrees F. Do not exceed 75 degrees F.

Feeding/Diet

African clawed frogs in the wild are primarily scavengers, feeding on a variety of dead or dying small fish, aquatic insects and other invertebrates, and other forms of carrion.

In captivity, these frogs should be fed a varied diet including formulated pellet foods, frozen and/or freeze dried foods such as bloodworms, krill, and beef, live foods such as roaches, crickets, earthworms, and nightcrawlers, and other pelleted fish foods. Feed young frogs daily, and adults every 2-3 days.

African clawed frogs require additional calcium and vitamin D3 supplementation to their diets as well. Ensure that any foods given consist of these elements.

Handling

Clawed frogs are delicate, soft bodied amphibians. As with all amphibians, their skin is soft and permeable; Wash hands thoroughly and avoid any lotions, creams, or oils before handling any amphibian. Handling these frogs should be minimal whenever possible and only when absolutely necessary. Use a fine mesh net to move capture and move these frogs to best avoid injuring them.

****Also be sure to practice basic cleanliness and hygiene associated with proper husbandry after touching or handling any animals or animal enclosures to prevent the possibility of contracting salmonellosis or any other zoonotic pathogens****