



*Ashley Schultz

American Green Tree Frog (*Hyla/Dryophytes cinerea*)

Emerald Gems of the Americas!

American green treefrogs are relatively small, arboreal treefrogs ranging in color from bright to olive green or brown often with a lighter stripe on each side, and sometimes yellow spots or flecks. During rainy and wet seasons, they will frequently call during or after rain, and their call sounds like a bleating sheep. American green treefrogs are relatively simple and inexpensive pets to maintain for the novice and advanced enthusiast alike. They are often found in and near gardens and residential areas, where they are attracted to street and window lights during warm, wet, humid nights to feed on insects attracted to the lights.

Taxonomy

Life: All living, physical, and animate entities

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum/Sub Phylum: Chordata/Vertebrata

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura

Suborder: Neobatrachia

Family: Hylidae

Genus: *Hyla/Dryophytes*

Species: *Hyla/Dryophytes cinerea**

**Taxonomy subject to change and revision.*

Lifespan and Longevity

If provided the proper care, American green treefrogs can attain longevity of up to 5 to 6 years or more.

Distribution and Habitat

American green treefrogs are indigenous to the Southeastern United States. During the breeding season, American green treefrogs can be found in and around swamplands, coastal plains regions, and weedy pond and lake margins. They are also often found in and around gardens and residential areas as well.

Conservation Status

IUCN Red List Least Concern (LC).

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Experience Level Required

Novice/Beginner.

Size

Adult American green tree frogs typically reach up to 1 ½ to 2 ½ inches.

Housing and Enclosure

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured top or aquarium hood. A 10 to 20 gallon tall glass aquarium or terrarium is suitable for one to four green tree frogs. Provide several horizontal perches for the frog(s) to climb and rest on. Provide additional live or artificial foliage, logs, cork bark, or other cage furnishings for added security and aesthetic appeal.

American green treefrogs enjoy moderate to high humidity. Substrates that retain some moisture and humidity should be used such as paper towels, or sphagnum moss, cypress mulch, gravel, or potting soil for more naturalistic enclosures. Substrate should be pesticide free. Provide a large, shallow water dish in the enclosure and change at least 2 to 3 times weekly. Spot clean daily.

Temperature, Lighting, and Humidity

American green treefrogs can be maintained at ambient and heated temperatures between 70 and 82 degrees F. Mist the enclosure at least once daily. American green treefrogs have simple and undemanding heating and lighting requirements in captivity, and do not require additional UVA/UVB lighting, although providing it in moderated amounts can be greatly beneficial for their health, immune system, and overall wellness. For any supplemental heating that may be needed, use a low wattage incandescent or UVA/UVB bulb, radiant or ceramic heat emitter, or UTH (under tank heating element). More specific lighting, heating, and humidity product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

Feeding, Diet, and Nutrition

Insectivorous; In the wild, American green tree frogs are insectivorous, and will eat insects, arachnids, and other invertebrates they can catch. In captivity, feed green treefrogs a variety of appropriately sized feeder insects such as crickets, roaches, mealworms, superworms, and waxworms. They can also be fed microfauna including springtails, isopods, and fruit fly cultures. Feeder insects should be gut-loaded in order to increase their optimal nutritional value. Green treefrogs also require additional calcium and vitamin D3 supplementation 1 to 2 times weekly or as otherwise directed for optimal health and development. This is in order to prevent Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD) and other growth and nutritional deficiencies. Their feeding frequency will depend on the age, size, and overall health of your animal. Use care as to not overfeed them, as obesity and other health related issues can become an issue. More specific dietary and supplementary product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

Handling

American green tree frogs will tolerate some level of careful but deliberate handling, but are small and delicate amphibians. Any handling overall should be done sparingly. As with all amphibians, their skin is soft and permeable; Wash hands thoroughly and avoid any lotions, creams, or oils before handling any amphibian.

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

Contact

Authored by Eric Roscoe. For any additional questions, comments, and/or concerns regarding this animal, group of animals, or this care sheet, please email and contact the Madison Area Herpetological Society at info@madisonherps.org

Disclaimer: Note that the information provided in these, or any care sheets, are not intended to be all-exhaustive, and further research and care should always be sought and provided when it comes to any species one may prospectively be interested in. These care sheets are also not intended to serve as substitutes for professional veterinary medical care and husbandry should any animal require it. Always seek proper and professional veterinary care for any animal should the need arise, and be prepared ahead of time for any and all husbandry costs and expenses that may occur with any animal beyond the initial purchase. Any animal owned is ultimately a matter of personal/individual care and responsibility.

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