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## Barking Tree Frog (*Hyla/Dryophytes gratiosa*)

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### **The “Bark” About an American Species**

This species is a relatively medium sized to large treefrog with a ground, or dorsum color ranging from light to dark green, olive or olive brown, yellowish, to grayish with characteristic dark, rounded spots and blotches on the dorsum. Toe pads are large and well developed, and a white or pale colored lateral stripe runs from the jaws, along the laterals. Barking treefrogs will frequently call during or after rain, and their call often is a loud, strident barking, hence their common name. They are relatively simple and inexpensive pets to maintain for the novice and advanced enthusiast alike.

### **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 gratiosa*\*

*\*Taxonomy subject to change and revision.*

### **Lifespan and Longevity**

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

### **Distribution and Habitat**

Barking treefrogs are indigenous to the Eastern and Southeastern United States, where they are the largest indigenous treefrog species in North America. They can be found in a variety of wooded and forested habitats, but require fishless ponds and other wetlands in order to breed.

### **Conservation Status**

IUCN Red List Least Concern (LC).

### **Experience Level Required**

Novice/Beginner.

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## **Size**

Adult barking tree frogs typically reach up to 2 to 3 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 or a pair of barking 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.

Barking 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**

Barking treefrogs can be maintained at ambient and heated temperatures between 70 and 82 degrees F. Mist the enclosure at least once daily. Barking 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, barking tree frogs are insectivorous, and will eat insects, arachnids, and other invertebrates they can catch. In captivity, feed barking 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. Barking 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**

Barking tree frogs will tolerate some level of careful but deliberate handling, but are still delicate and sensitive skinned 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

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this animal, group of animals, or this care sheet, please email and contact the Madison Area Herpetological Society at [info@madisonherps.org](mailto: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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