



Budgett's Frog *Lepidobatrachus laevis*

- Also sometimes known as the Paraguayan horned frog or “Freddy Krueger” frog due to its aggressive defensive nature and its ability to emit a shriek or scream when disturbed.
- These large frogs are indigenous to still to slow moving pools, ponds, streams, and rivers of South America, most notably, Paraguay, Brazil, and Argentina.
- Budgett’ frogs are largely sedentary, aquatic to semi aquatic ambush predators.
- The Budgett’s frog is a large, pudgy bodied frog that ranges in color from pale olive green to pinkish green often with lighter green to yellowish spots or mottling. The limbs are short, mouth is very large, and eyes are set high atop their heads.
- If provided the proper care, Budgett’s frogs can attain longevity of 5-15 years or more.

Size

Budgett’s Frogs typically reach 4-6” as adults.

Housing

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured lid or aquarium hood. Budgett’s frogs are not overly active frogs and can be kept in a 10-20 gallon aquarium with a secured top. Budgett’s frogs are largely aquatic, and should be maintained in about 2-3 inches of water as juvenile frogs, and anywhere from 6 to 9 inches of water for adults. Water temperatures for these frogs should be maintained at around 77-82 degrees F. Adequate filtration should also be provided, but these frogs do not tolerate faster flowing water. Substrate is not required when housing Budgett’s frog, but if it is used, aquarium sand or gravel can be used, but additional care should be taken that frogs housed on a substrate are monitored and do not ingest substrate.

Additional decorations (i.e. live or artificial plants), furnishings, and hiding opportunities should also be provided, as well as a basking dock, substrate dam, or access to dry land in the enclosure.

Additional lighting is typically not required with Budgett’s frogs, but low wattage UV or florescent lighting on a 12 hour day/night cycle can be used. When it comes to temperatures, these frogs can be kept within 75-85 degrees F. Create a thermal temperature gradient with a under tank heating pad, or a low wattage infrared bulb if needed for heating.

Feeding/Diet

Budgett’s frogs are voracious eaters and will eat insects, small mammals, small fish, smaller reptiles and amphibians, and nearly anything else they can capture, and consume.

Feed a varied diet; Budgett’s frogs will readily accept crickets, mealworms, waxworms, super worms, feeder roaches, and feeder guppies and other fish. Pinkie mice can be offered, but sparingly. Do not overfeed these frogs, or obesity and other health issues may occur.

Provide calcium and vitamin D3 supplements in Budgett’s frog diets whenever possible.

Handling

Budgett’s frogs are soft skinned amphibians with permeable skin and should avoid being handled if it is not necessary. These frogs can be aggressive and inflict a painful bite to a careless finger as well. 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****