



Horned (Pacman) Frogs *Ceratophrys ornata*

- Also widely known as “Pacman frogs” because of their large jaws, rotund shape, and voracious appetites.
- These frogs are range widely across South America including Argentina, Surinam, and surrounding areas.
- Pacman frogs are largely sedentary ambush predators.
- A large, rotund frog with a large broad head and jaws; Green, olive, to brownish warty skin color with many lighter brown spots and streaks. Prominent “horns” above each eye.
- If provided the proper care, horned frogs can attain longevity of 5-15 years or more.

Size

Pacman Frogs typically reach 4-8” as adults.

Housing

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured lid or aquarium hood. Pacman frogs are not overly active frogs and can be kept in a 10-15 gallon aquarium with a secured top. Use an absorbent, naturalistic substrate that enables the frog to burrow; cypress mulch, sphagnum moss, or coconut husk fiber substrates work well. Dampened paper towel can also be used. Provide a large, but shallow water pan within the cage at all times and change 2-3 times weekly or whenever fouled. Mist daily to help maintain humidity.

Horned frogs are relatively hardy when it comes to temperatures, and 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 for heating. A 12-14 hour light cycle can also be provided.

Feeding/Diet

Horned 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; Pacman frogs will readily accept crickets, mealworms, waxworms, super worms, feeder roaches, and feeder guppies. 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 pacman frog diets whenever possible.

Handling

Pacman 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 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****