



African Bullfrog (Pixie Frog) *Pyxicephalus adspersus*

- The second largest frog after the Goliath frog, these large frogs are typically greenish to greenish brown in color with distinct nodules and skin folds. The snout is short and rounded, with protruding tooth like projections on the lower jaw. The underside is usually pale yellowish to white.
- Pixie frogs are indigenous to the grasslands and savannahs of much of sub Saharan Africa.
- To survive the dry seasons or conditions in its natural range, these frogs often “aestivate” underground using their moist skin secretions until conditions improve.
- If provided the proper care, Pixie frogs can attain longevity of 10-15 years or more.

Size

Pixie frogs are sexually dimorphic, with males typically reaching up to 9-12 inches, whereas females are typically smaller (up to 5 ½”).

Housing

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured lid or aquarium hood. Pixie frogs are not overly active frogs, with a 10-15 gallon terrarium with a secure top being suitable for young frogs, and a 20 gallon sized terrarium for adults. 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.

Pixie frogs require somewhat of a warmer setup. Create a thermal temperature gradient with a under tank heating pad, or a low wattage infrared bulb for heating. Temperatures should be within 75 to 85 degrees F using a low wattage heat bulb or under tank heating element. Although UVB lighting is not essential for these frogs, it nevertheless is beneficial to them. A 12-14 hour light cycle can also be provided.

Feeding/Diet

Pixie 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; Pixie frogs will readily accept crickets, mealworms, waxworms, super worms, feeder roaches, and feeder guppies. Pinkie mice can also be given, but sparingly. Do not overfeed these frogs, or obesity and other health issues may occur.

Provide calcium and vitamin D3 supplements in pixie frog diets whenever possible.

Handling

Pixie 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 hand or 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****