



*Captive Bred Specialties

White's or Dumpy's Tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*)

A Little Bit Chubby from Down Under

Also commonly called the Dumpy's tree frog, or Australian green treefrog, the White's treefrog is a large, chubby, smooth skinned treefrog with enlarged toe pads characteristic of tree frogs. They are usually bright green to olive brown in dorsal color and they may have scattered white or yellowish spots, as well as visible tympanums just behind their eyes. A large, docile species, they can often be found near lights and window sills at night and during their crepuscular habits seeking insects and other invertebrates to eat. As with most other frog species, they will also call and vocalize during certain times of the year (such as after rainy or wet seasons), to signal territory or as a self-defense to startle predators. During the day, they spend most of their time in dark, cool, and moist tree cavities or rock crevices, and will secrete waxy, mucous-like skin secretions to help maintain their moisture and prevent desiccation.

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: Litoria

Species: *Litoria caerulea**

*Taxonomy subject to change and revision.

Lifespan and Longevity

If provided the proper care, White's tree frogs can attain longevity of 10 to 15 years or more.

Distribution and Habitat

White's treefrogs are native to the tropical to subtropical regions of Australia and New Guinea. More specifically, they are native to northern and eastern Australia from New South Wales, Queensland, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia to New Guinea, Irian Jaya, and Indonesia. They can be found in a variety of warm, wet microhabitats including forest and

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woodland canopies near wetlands (particularly Eucalyptus stands that collect water), and even other habitats such as swamplands and grasslands on occasion.

Conservation Status

IUCN Red List Least Concern (LC).

Experience Level Required

Novice/Beginner.

Size

Adult White's treefrogs are large treefrogs that typically reach up to 4 to 5 inches.

Housing and Enclosure

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured top or aquarium hood. A 15 to 20 gallon tall glass aquarium or terrarium is suitable for a single white's tree frog. Provide several horizontal perches for the frog to climb and rest on. Provide additional live or artificial foliage, logs, cork bark, or other cage furnishings for added security and aesthetic appeal. Substrates that retain some moisture and humidity should be used such as paper towels, or sphagnum moss, cypress mulch, 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

White's treefrogs have fairly 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). Maintain White's tree frogs at higher humidity between 60 and 80%, and be sure to mist their enclosure at least once daily. Maintain these frogs at ambient temperatures of between 65 and 80 degrees F, but do not allow for temperatures to drop below or rise above this range. A 12 to 14 hour light cycle can also be provided if overhead lighting is used. 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, White's tree frogs are insectivorous, and will eat insects, arachnids, and other invertebrates they can catch. They will occasionally catch and consume other smaller vertebrates as well. In captivity, feed White's treefrogs a variety of appropriately sized feeder insects such as crickets, roaches, mealworms, superworms, and waxworms. Feeder insects should be gut-loaded in order to increase their optimal nutritional value. White's 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

Unlike many amphibians, white's tree frogs will tolerate some level of careful but deliberate handling and can often become fairly accustomed to being handled. 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. MAHS cannot make any claims or guarantees regarding any information in this care sheet therein. This care sheet may be reprinted or redistributed only in its entirety, including any and all MAHS logos and disclaimers.

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