



Care and information sheet for your

## African Clawed Frog

<b>Adult Size</b>	2 -3 inches	<b>Life Span</b>	25+ with proper care.
<b>Male/Female Differences</b>	Males vocalize frequently during the evening hours, while females remain silent. Females are typically larger with fatter bodies.		
<b>Compatibility</b>	African clawed frogs can be socialized to the point that they will eat out of the owner's hand. Multiple frogs can be kept together or with other fishes/invertebrates as long as they are of similar size and the aquarium is large enough. Each mature frog should have at least twenty gallons. <i>Xenopus laevis</i>		
<b>Origin</b>	South Africa		
<b>Climate</b>	Ponds, marshes, swamps, and creeks.		
<b>Day Cycle</b>	Nocturnal		
<b>Temperature</b>	The proper temperature allows the frog to regulate body temperature. As such the water temperature should be of 70-80°F.		
<b>Lighting</b>	Clawed frogs do not require any special lighting so fluorescent lighting will suffice.		
<b>Humidity</b>	NA		
<b>Habitat/Territory</b>	Wild African clawed frogs are found in stagnant ponds and backwaters arising on a deep mud substrate.		
<b>Substrate/Bedding</b>	River rocks and sand all make good choices for the aquatic part of the habitat. Small aquarium gravel poses a health risk as the frog could easily mistake it for food and an impaction could occur.		
<b>Hiding Place/Den</b>	Aquarium-safe hiding places will provide a spot where the frog can retreat to if they feel threatened or uncomfortable. This is especially important for younger frogs cohabitating with aggressive fish.		
<b>Cage Type</b>	Aquariums are best suited to house aquatic creatures, and African clawed		

	frogs are no exception. Since they can potentially grow to six inches, one frog can be kept comfortably in a twenty-gallon aquarium. A heater and light filtration are also necessary. The filter should be gentle since these frogs are generally found in slow moving waters. Make sure the area is escape-proof.
<b>Diet</b>	Their captive diet should be close match their natural diet which can include earthworms, bloodworms, brine shrimp, small fish, shrimp, insect larvae, bugs, etc. Commercial pellets and sticks can be used as the primary food given that it is protein rich.
<b>Supplements</b>	A varied and balanced diet should provide the frog's dietary needs without the need for supplementation.
<b>Diet Precautions</b>	Avoid a uniform diet. Inadequate amounts of calcium and phosphorus are also issues with feeding the same foods.
<b>Feeding</b>	Food should be given twice a day as much as they can eat in a minute. Be careful not to overfeed and to rotate food sources.
<b>Water Source</b>	African clawed frogs drink and absorb water while they swim so it is important that clean water is maintained. Weekly 50% percent water changes should be performed.
<b>Grooming</b>	Clawed frogs shed their skin often, so maintaining good water quality and filtration is important.
<b>Oral and Foot Care</b>	NA
<b>Proper Handling</b>	Avoid handling these aquatic frogs as touching them may remove their protective slime, which in turn makes them susceptible to diseases/infections. Being that they are aquatic, exposure to air - for even the shortest of times - will cause them to dry out.
<b>Habitat Maintenance</b>	Large predators tend to create a lot of waste; therefore weekly 50% water changes should be done to maintain a high water quality.
<b>Health Concerns</b>	African clawed frogs are prone to bloat, nitrate poisoning, red leg, respiratory infections, fungal infections, and impaction. The main cause for bloat is bacterial infection, which may be introduced through food or dirty water. Bloat manifests itself through swelling of the body and legs. Treatment for the disease can include antibiotics, adding aquarium salt, and raising the temperature a few degrees. Nitrate poisoning is caused by poor water quality and the symptoms are reddening around the throat, eyes, and mouth. Routine water changes will improve the water quality and help relieve the affliction. Red leg is the number one killer of clawed

---

frogs; it is a bacterial infection that causes the upper thighs of the frog to swell and turn red. It will eventually spread to the abdomen and cause the flesh to rot. There isn't a treatment, but can be prevented by maintaining good water quality and the appropriate temperature. Improper temperatures cause respiratory infections, which may become fatal. Irregular swimming, breathing difficulties, and lethargy are all symptoms of infection. Raise the temperature to within the range of 70-80°F. Fungal infections appear as cotton-like substances on the frog and are caused by low water quality. Routine water changes will improve the water quality and help relieve the affliction. Clawed frogs are opportunistic feeders and as such will swallow anything that resembles food. Small gravel should be avoided for this reason.

---