

## Care & Information Sheet

# Fire Bellied Toad

*Bombina orientalis*



The fire-bellied toad is small with either a red, orange, or yellow underside. They sometimes excrete toxins from their skin to scare off predators. Fire-bellied toads spend most of their time in the water and they make a unique sound. Males call when they are ready to breed. The call almost sounds like a dog's bark. They recognize routine so if you feed them at the same time every day, you'll find them waiting for you. They are one of the few communal toads that can live together. The average size is 2-3 inches and with proper care and nutrition they can live up to 5 years.

### Habitat

- A 10 Gallon tank with a secure cover is adequate for 2 toads.
- For terrarium, provide a water bowl to submerge in if needed. Add filtered, chlorine free water to soil at one side only, so one side is moist (not wet) and the other is dry, allowing the toad to choose. Add pieces of bark for hiding places.
- For aqua- terrarium, use a water filter but ensure areas of still water.
- Substrate – Mulch-type commercial material; unbleached paper towels, soil, dampened sphagnum moss, and bark; avoid gravel and artificial turf as it is too harsh for their skin.
- Temperature – Should range from 68 F. to 85 F.
- Clean the tank at least once a week. Place toads in a secure habitat, scrub tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution, rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach. Add clean, de-chlorinated water and ensure the temperature range is from 68F to 85°F before returning toads to the tank.

### Food & Water

- Provide a variety of live insects, including small, gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets and worms. Dust the insects daily with a pure calcium supplement and once or twice weekly with a vitamin/mineral supplement
- Feed toads every other day, placing food on the land area of the tank. Provide only as much food as they can eat in one feeding.
- Water – Use de-chlorinated water; a canister filter is needed to keep the habitat clean and prevent disease.

### Grooming and Hygiene

- Remove left over food and feces daily to keep the water clean and clear. Use an appropriate sized, small-mesh, soft net to move or block the toad while doing habitat maintenance. Avoid handling; if you handle them be sure to wear latex gloves as residue or oil on your skin can harm amphibians. Do not allow toad's skin toxins to come into contact with eyes, mouth, or open wounds.

### Supplies

Habitat with Secure Lid	Vitamin & Mineral Supplement	Canister Filter
Mulch	Incandescent Light or Ceramic Heater	Fish net
Basking Rock or Log	Thermometer & Humidity Gauge	Book about Toads

### Health

Because toads are potential carriers of Salmonella and infectious diseases, always wear latex gloves and wash your hands before and after handling your toads and or the habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of disease.

*You should consult with an exotic animal veterinarian if you observe any of the following conditions.*

- Chemical Intoxication - Caused by exposure to soap, detergent, pesticides, etc. May be lethal; be sure to protect your frog from exposure.
- Intestinal Obstruction - Caused by swallowing gravel or by eating too many hardshelled insects. Surgery may be required.
- Nutritional Deficiencies - Weak hind legs, lethargy, lighter or darker skin color. Ensure a varied diet; use vitamin and mineral supplements.
- Skin Problems Abrasions, bacterial and fungal infections.

For information regarding toads and disease, contact the Center for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets>

**NOTE:** The information contained in this document is for general reference only. Please consult a veterinarian for medical advice and concerns.

**Sources:** Frogs and Toads by Steve Grenard and Terry Gamppen  
Frogs and Toads as New Pets by John Coborn