

Care & Information Sheet

Horned (Pac-Man) Frog

Ceratophrys ornata



Horned frogs come from the damp, humid forests of South America. Their name refers to the fact that the top of their head comes to a point over their eyes and looks like little horns. They also have the nickname “Pac-man Frog,” after the popular video game, Pac-Man. Their average size is 4 to 8 inches long and with proper care and nutrition they can live 5 to 7 years. Horned frogs are sedentary, aggressive, gluttonous, and cannibalistic when given the chance. They can overpower and swallow a prey almost its own size. They have very delicate skin which can be harmed by oils from human hands so always handle with gloves. They shed periodically and will eat their discarded skin.

Habitat

- A glass habitat, 10 gallons for juveniles and 20 gallons for adults with a screened lid. Keep only one horned frog per tank.
- Temperature – About 68° F to 80° F. Use a heat source when needed.
- Humidity – Maintain humidity by misting daily.
- Substrate – Provide a deep substrate, such as commercial mulch, bark chips, large gravel, sphagnum moss, or sterile potting soil.

Food & Water

- Provide a variety of live insects such as crickets and mealworms. Dust the insects daily with a pure calcium supplement and once or twice weekly with a vitamin/mineral supplement.
- Goldfish and frozen, thawed rodents, warmed to room temperature can also be provided.
- Feed growing frogs daily. Feed adults once or twice a week. Obesity is a common problem in large terrestrial frogs, regulate their diets carefully.
- If feeding your frog live rodents, do not leave them unattended. Live rodents can injure the frog, sometimes fatally.
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine free water, in a shallow bowl that cannot be tipped over and large enough for the frog to soak in and drink from. Replace water daily.

Maintenance

- Mist the habitat daily to keep humidity levels high.
- Use an appropriate sized, small-mesh, soft net to move or block the frog while doing habitat maintenance. Avoid handling; if you handle them be sure to wear latex gloves. Residue or oil on your skin can harm amphibians.
- Thoroughly clean the tank at least once a week. Place the frogs aside in a secure habitat. Scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution, rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach. Dry the tank and furnishings; and add clean substrate.

Supplies

Habitat	Water Bowl	Heat Source
Tight Fitting Screen Lid	Live Crickets & Meal Worms	Fluorescent light
Forest Bedding, Mulch	Calcium Supplement	Humidity/Thermometer Gauge
Spray Bottle	Multi-Vitamin Supplement	Book About Frogs

Health

In general, don't handle your horned frog unless necessary. Always wear latex gloves if you must handle your frog and wash your hands after handling the habitat contents to help prevent *Salmonella* and other infectious diseases.

If you notice any of the following signs, check habitat temperature and humidity levels, ensure habitat is clean and water and food is available. If everything appears OK you should consult with an exotic animal veterinarian for advice.

- Chemical Intoxication - Caused by exposure to soap, detergent, pesticides, etc. Can be lethal.
- Intestinal Obstruction - Caused by swallowing gravel or by eating too many hard-shelled insects. Surgery may be required.
- Nutritional Deficiencies - Weak hind legs, lethargy, lighter or darker skin color. Ensure a varied diet and use vitamin and mineral supplements.
- Skin Problems Abrasions, bacterial and fungal infections. Check habitat for sharp objects.

For information regarding horned frogs & 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: *Horned Frogs* by R. Hunziker

The General Care and Maintenance of Horned Frogs by Philippe De Vosjoli