

## **Roger's Aquatics & Pet Supplies: Green Tree Frogs**

*Hyla cinerea* is native to the Southeast US. Their relatively easy care and attractive appearance have skyrocketed their popularity in the pet trade. They attain an average size of 2 inches, and can live 6 years in captivity. They are most active during the evenings and nights. Like most amphibians, they are not meant for regular handling.

### Enclosure: Size, Substrate, and Accessories

An Exo Terra 12" by 12" by 18" makes an ideal home for an ideal home for a single frog, but since they can be kept in groups an 18" by 18" by 18" Exo Terra would be more ideal. A 10 – 20 gallon aquarium can also be used.

Coco coir products such as Eco Earth or Plantation soil work well for frogs, as they hold moisture well. You can also use products such as ReptiSoil if you are planning on doing live plants or going bioactive. The substrate should be changed out every 3 – 4 months. It is important to note that there is a risk of impaction with any animal that is being housed on loose substrate. Typically, impaction only occurs with animals that are dehydrated, not receiving adequate lighting or diet, or in some other way are unhealthy, and it is much rarer than people think, but if you choose to keep your animal on loose substrate you should familiarize yourself with the signs of impaction and see what local vets deal with amphibians.

Since these are tree frogs, branches and plants should be provided to mimic the trees and bushes they would normally inhabit. Manzanita, rose, and spider wood all work well in this type of terrarium, as well as cork and vines.

### Lighting and Heat

A daytime temperature of 70 – 82 F (21.1 – 27.7 C) should be maintained. Typically no additional heating is needed to maintain this, but if the terrarium is too cool a low wattage daylight (white) bulb can be added to bump up the temperature. During the night the temperature can remain between 70 – 75 F (21.1 – 23.8 C). A proper thermometer should always be used to measure the temperature.

A 5.0 (tropical) UVB light should be provided. This type of lighting is essential in maintaining proper vitamin D3 levels, which allows them to properly absorb and metabolize calcium, regulates the immune system, and promotes proper organ development. UVB lights should be replaced every 6 – 12 months.

### Diet and Supplements

These frogs are great eaters and will eat crickets without hesitation. Wax worms and butter worms can also be offered as treats. All feeder insects should be gut loaded 1 – 24 hours before being fed. Feeders should be dusted with a calcium supplement with D3 twice a week and a multivitamin once a week.

### Hydration and Humidity

The humidity should be kept between 30 – 50 %. Regular mistings 1 – 2 times a day should be enough to maintain this. Alternatively an automatic mister can be hooked up to the terrarium. A proper hygrometer should always be used to measure the humidity levels. Digital is preferred, since it's more accurate.

A shallow water dish should be provided at all times to ensure that the frogs will not dry out. The water itself should always be dechlorinated. Generally the water will need to be replaced everyday as the frogs will constantly drag dirt in with them. The dish should be bleached once a week to prevent the growth of bacteria.

### Cohabitation

These frogs do well in groups as long as enough space and food is provided. Always monitor the frogs to ensure that all of them are getting access to food and separate any bullies from the group.

### Sexing

Sexing can be difficult without multiple frogs to compare with. Males will have a large vocal sack and will usually croak loudly.

### Checklist of Supplies

- ✓ Enclosure
- ✓ Heat lamp and bulb
- ✓ UVB bulb and fixture
- ✓ Thermometer
- ✓ Hygrometer
- ✓ Calcium with D2
- ✓ Multivitamin
- ✓ Insect keeper
- ✓ Insect diet
- ✓ Insect gut load
- ✓ Branches and vines
- ✓ Plants