

Roger's Aquatics & Pet Supplies: Pacman Frogs

Ornate Pacmans (*Ceratophrys ornata*) and Cranwell's Pacmans (*Ceratophrys cranwelli*) are chubby frogs native to Columbia, Argentina, and Venezuela. With males reaching 2.5 – 4 inches and females reaching 4 – 7 inches (depending on species), they are a reasonable size animal that will not take up too much space in your house. They aren't an overly long commitment, living around 15 years with proper care. This species, more than other amphibians, should not be handled often, if at all. Amphibians as a whole cannot handle the oils on our skin as they are very sensitive, but pacmans are especially notorious for mistaking their owner's hands for food and attempting to chow down. For this reason, they should be display only. This doesn't make them a boring pet though – one of the best parts of the pacmans is watching them stuff their faces with all sorts of prey! They come in a variety of colours now, with the most common being albinos and brighter greens, and the two species have been cross bred to create a "fantasy pacman".

Enclosure: Size, Substrate, and Accessories

A 10 – 20 gallon tank is perfect for a pacman throughout its entire life. Anything more is unnecessary overkill, and they will not use the space. The tank should be filled with a minimum of 4 inches coco coir, for an adult, and 2 inches for juveniles. Moss can also be added on the top, and will help hold in humidity. A bioactive substrate can also be used. Hides should be provided, and cork pieces are especially good for pacmans. Don't over decorate though – pacmans have a tendency to topple over most décor. A water dish should also be provided, more information on this is available in the Hydration and Humidity section

Lighting and Heat

Pacmans should be maintained between 75 – 85 F, with the bottom of the tank staying around 65 F to allow the frog to cool down. To maintain this, a heat pad (hooked up to a thermostat) can be placed on the side of the glass, not the bottom. Heat lamps are not recommended as they typically dry out the tank too much, but if it is absolutely necessary use only low wattage bulbs. UVB lighting is typically considered unnecessary, and may be harmful in tanks where the light is going to be 6 inches away from the frog. You should always have a proper thermometer (digital is much more accurate, and is preferred) to make sure your frog is within the proper temperature range. Incorrect temperatures can cause your frog to overheat and die, or be too cold to eat.

Diet and Supplements

Pacmans will eat almost anything you provide them, – crickets, fish, rodents, worms, and with some patience, commercial diets. Try and maintain your frog on crickets and dew worms, with horn worms and rodents as treat items. Pacmans fed rodents weekly tend to be obese, short lived, and exhibit signs of calcium deficiency. Always make sure that prey items are appropriately sized for your pacman. It is also a good idea to tong feed all prey, as they can easily miss their prey and you don't want them ingesting substrate. Juvenile frogs should be fed every other day, and supplemented 2 – 3 times a week with calcium with D3 and multivitamins, while adults can be fed once or twice a week, and supplemented once a week with calcium with D3 and multivitamins. Pacmans will naturally gorge themselves on food for when times are harsh in the wild, so make sure that your frog is round, but not bloated. If it looks bloated, you should cut back on the feeding until it slims down.

Hydration and Humidity

Water dishes should be provided, and should be big enough for frog to soak in, but not so deep that they are completely submerged as they aren't good swimmers. The dish must be kept very clean, as frogs are very sensitive. Any water used in the pacman set up should always be dechlorinated, whether it is in the dish, being used to spray down the tank, or being used to expand bricks of coco coir. Pacmans seem to be happy being kept between 60 – 70% humidity. Always have a proper humidity gauge (digital is always more accurate, and preferred) to measure your humidity and help you maintain it.

Cohabitation

Pacmans are not friendly towards each other, and will most likely try and eat each other. It is not recommended to keep them together. Additionally, if one gets sick, the other is pretty much guaranteed to get sick as well, costing you double the vet bills, double the meds, and causing double the stress.

Sexing

In general, female pacmans are much larger and rounder than males, and as with all frogs, males will croak. Another way to tell if you have a Mr. Pacman or a Mrs. Pacman is by looking at their snouts. Males tend to have a rounder nose, while females tend to have a pointier one. Typically, you can only use this method if you have a couple frogs to compare with. Males also have grip pads on their forearms.

Checklist of Supplies

- ✓ 10 – 20 gallon tank
- ✓ Coco coir substrate
- ✓ Hide of some sort
 - Cork
 - Cave
- ✓ Water dish
- ✓ Heat pad + thermostat (potentially)
- ✓ Calcium with D3
- ✓ Multivitamins
- ✓ Tongs
- ✓ Thermometer
- ✓ Hygrometer