

# Whites Tree Frog Caresheet

Adults can reach up to 5 inches, but most females top out at 4-4.5 inches in snout-to-vent length.

In captivity these frogs have lived over 20 years, but a more common age would be 7-10 years. They don't have any real defensive capabilities other than camouflage, so their lifespan in the wild is likely shorter due to the risk of predation.

These hardy frogs are very forgiving when it comes to their terrarium conditions. A 20 gallon horizontal terrarium should be considered a minimum size for 4 young frogs. Treefrogs like to climb, so a taller terrarium that can accommodate larger climbing plants and branches is a good idea if possible.

White's treefrogs are gregarious but avoid keeping very young (small) frogs with older individuals – they are not above cannibalism.

The frogs themselves do not require lighting of any kind, but if you choose to grow plants, a freshwater aquarium light is a good choice. Fluorescent models give out less heat than incandescent ones, and overheating and rapid drying can stress these frogs. A good daytime temperature is about 80 oF. This can be achieved by using a heat mat on the side of the terrarium with a thermostat. Slightly cooler nighttime conditions will simulate temperature changes found in the wild. A tight-fitting but ventilated terrarium lid is a necessity – lack of ventilation can cause respiratory problems.

The substrate should be a fine particulate soil or ground coconut fiber. This will retain moisture well and the small particle size will not impact the frog's gut if any is ingested accidentally.

Gut-loaded crickets are a good staple food. Feed as many crickets as the frogs will eat in 10-15 minutes. For adults, feed 2-3 times per week. For youngsters, feed every 1-2 days. Earthworms are another staple food. Treat foods include waxworms, mealworms, and superworms.

Humidity should be maintained by regular misting with distilled water. You can also use a water bowl (use spring water or dechlorinated tap water in bowls) in case the humidity changes suddenly and the frogs need water.

Unlike most amphibians, White's treefrogs tolerate handling quite well. They can even become quite accustomed to it. Due to the delicate and permeable nature of their skins, be sure your hands are soap and cream free before handling, and wash your hands well afterwards.