



White's tree frog *Litoria caerulea*

Adult size; 5 to 10 cm (2 to 4")

Origin; Australia, Indonesia, New Guinea and New Zealand

Temperature; 25°C to 30°C (77°F to 85°F)

Longevity; 15 to 20 years

White's tree frogs are a popular as pets. They come in a range of colours from striking shades of green through to olive and blue tones.

Housing

White's tree frogs spend most of their time in the canopy so require a taller enclosure to allow them to climb. The minimum size enclosure for 2 adult whites would be 45 x 45 x 60 cm (18 x 18 x 24"). The larger the enclosure you can provide the better. Glass terrariums are normally preferred with amphibians as they cope better with high humidity levels. They are also well vented to allow for good air circulation.

Substrate

Commonly used substrates are; coco husk, soil, orchid bark chips, sphagnum moss and peat. These types of substrate help to hold the humidity level within the set up. However care should be taken with loose substrates as they can be easily ingested and this can cause problems with compaction within the digestive system.

Heating and lighting

Care has to be taken when heating amphibian setups. Ceramic heat emitters and spot bulbs are not advised as they dry the air which can dehydrate your amphibian. Heat mats are normally more suitable when attached to a thermostat. White's tree frogs should have a warm area within the enclosure of 30°C (85°F), the temperature should reduce to 25°C (77°F) at the other side of the enclosure to provide a temperature gradient. The best way to ensure your heating equipment is working correctly is to place thermometers throughout the enclosure.

Whites require a UV-B light not only does this provide them with a day night cycle but it also aids with calcium absorption.

Decor

This is a real matter of personal preference, both real or plastic plants can be used but care should be taken when selecting real plants. Although it is unlikely that your whites will eat them its live food may. One way to reduce this is to gut load your live food with fresh veg and supplements 3-2 days before feeding to your whites. Whites love to hide so make sure there is plenty of area for them to use. Items commonly used; cork bark, bogwood/driftwood, branches and vines.

Diet

Whites feed mostly on insects, all insects should be dusted with calcium powder. The insects which whites will feed from are; crickets, locust and mealworms. Wax worms can be given as an occasional treat, they are not advised as a primary food as they are fatty which can easily lead to your whites becoming overweight.

Humidity

Whites require a humidity level of around 50%, this can be achieved with a large water bowl and a light misting daily. Whites often are found soaking in their water dishes, they will also pass waste into it so it will need to be changed daily. Tap water can be used, it should be de-chlorinated to ensure the chemicals within the tap water does not cause harm. Otherwise mineral water or Rebalanced R.O can be used.