

KIT

TADPOLE KIT

INTRODUCTION

Tadpoles are a great way to observe metamorphosis! Our tadpole kits typically come with bullfrog or tree frog tadpoles.

SETUP

1. Open pet house and take out all of the materials. Check to see if all materials arrived in working order. Check for cracks in your pet house.
2. Rinse the aquarium out with water - do not use any soaps or cleansers. You may use diluted rubbing alcohol to clean the inside but be sure to rinse several times after you have used the alcohol mixture.
3. Rinse off any decor that come with your kit. Again, no soaps or cleaners needed. Place the decor in the bottom of the clear aquarium.
4. Add water to your aquarium. While we recommend using reverse osmosis water that might not be possible. Read the directions on the back of the included water conditioner. And prepare one gallon of water for your aquarium. Use an old water jug or animal safe container to prepare your water. You will not need the entire gallon so keep the remaining water for your daily water changes. We recommend having this water available daily (see upkeep section below.)
5. Add your tadpole. Place the container that your tadpole came in on top of the aquarium and let it float for 10+ minutes. This will get your tadpole acclimated to the temperature of the aquarium water. After 10+ minutes you can slowly start to allow some aquarium water into the tadpole container. Repeat this a few times before finally releasing your tadpole into his new aquarium.
6. Give your tadpole an hour or so to get to know his new environment before you feed him for the day.

FEEDING

Most native tadpoles are vegetarian and live on a variety of plant materials. You can add aquatic plants such as Elodea to the habitat for decoration and as a food source. Provide enough light for the plants to carry out photosynthesis, but avoid placing the habitat in direct sunlight.

Our Tadpole Food is an excellent food source for native tadpoles. Other options include pelleted rabbit food, ground dry dog food, fish food, and algae supplemented with finely powdered beef liver or powdered egg yolk. Parboiled lettuce and spinach are also suitable, but you should supplement them with other foods. Tadpoles that feed exclusively on lettuce or spinach may develop tumors. Xenopus tadpoles are filter feeders and will eat our Xenopus Tadpole Food, nettle powder, or pea soup.

Do not feed more than the tadpoles can consume in a few hours. If your tadpoles are newly hatched from eggs, wait to begin feeding them until they are actively swimming. For 2 to 3 young tadpoles, a small pinch of food every other day is a good starting point. The amount you feed will depend on the size and number of your tadpoles, so it may require some trial and error.

Increase the amount of food you provide as the tadpoles grow.

Remove any uneaten food from the habitat a few hours after every feeding. This must be done to maintain water quality, which is essential for healthy tadpoles. You may find that a pipette, turkey baster, or aquarium siphon makes it easier to remove the uneaten food. Be careful not to siphon up or injure the tadpoles.

After the front limbs appear, tadpoles may stop eating. This is because they are literally digesting their tails and need no additional food. Tadpoles also develop lungs at about the same time as their front limbs, and they will need a way to reach the air to breathe. Add a flat rock or other object to the habitat once the tadpole has hind limbs, so that it will be able to climb out as it matures. Frogs can climb on almost any surface, but toads need a surface that provides traction. Spring peepers are excellent climbers and will escape from any container that does not have a lid.

TEACHER NOTES

Once frogs or toads are crawling out of the water with their tails mostly gone, move them to a terrarium. The terrarium should have a sand substrate and a source of water.

For frogs, put about 5 cm (2") of clean sand in the bottom of the terrarium and pile it to on one end to create a land side and a water side. The depth of water depends on the size of the frogs, but it should be a few centimeters at most. Toads are terrestrial and can drown if they are trapped in water, so cover the bottom of their terrarium with clean sand and place a shallow dish of water on top. Keep the terrarium at room temperature and away from direct sunlight.

Native frogs and toads need live insects to eat. Start by offering them fruit flies, then add small cricket nymphs as the frogs grow. Larger frogs and toads can be fed red worms (small whole worms or chopped pieces), wax worms, hornworm larvae, mealworms, and crickets. Feed frogs and toads 2 to 3 times a week. Once or twice a week, dust the insects with a commercial vitamin/mineral supplement prior to feeding.

Never release any animal into the wild. Contact You Pet'Cha if you need to get rid of your animal and we will help you find a local resource. You can also consider donating your animal to a local family or another teacher. Pass on these directions or contact us for a new set.

UPKEEP

Water Changes: You should consider doing a half water change every other month. To do this use your water change cup to take out 2 to 3 cup fulls of water from your aquarium and replace them with new conditioned water. You should be able to keep your betta in the tank during this process, however if your betta looks uncomfortable use a new, clean cup to remove your betta while you do the water change. It's a good idea to re-acclimate him to the tank just as you did in Setup Step 9 above.

KIT CONTENTS

- Pet House (with cover, handle and decor)
- Water Conditioner (to make your tap water clean)
- Food Pellets
- 1 Tadpole
- Instructions & Lesson Plans

LINKS

- In Tank Thermometer:
<http://youpet-cha.com/product/fish/heating/marina-lcd-aquarium-thermometer-centigrade-fahrenheit-18-to-30-c-64-to-86-f/>
- Water Change Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wL_gvKZCUAo