



Jungle Bob's Care Sheet

African Bullfrogs or Pyxie Frogs

(*Pyxicephalus adspersus*)

General Information

Considered by many to be the world's most impressive frog, the huge, aggressive African Bullfrog is relatively easy to care for. Just be sure to plan ahead – one of these behemoths has set a longevity record of 51 years, and pets in their 20's and 30's are common!

The African Bullfrog ranges from southern Kenya to South Africa, where it frequents seasonally-flooded savannas and brushy scrub.

Adult males may reach 9.6 inches in length and top 3 lbs. in weight. The outsized head supports powerful jaws equipped with tooth-like projections known as odontoid structures. The body may be olive-green or blue-tinged gray in color.



Housing

A 20-30 gallon terrarium aquarium tilted on one side to create a small water section makes a good home for a single adult. Alternatively, a water bowl can be utilized. Bare-bottomed terrariums or washable cage liners simplify cleaning and prevent substrate ingestion. A hanging plant under which the frog can shelter should also be provided. [Coconut husk](#)/Eco-Earth may also be used, but feeding should then be done via tongs or in a large bowl.

A temperature range of 74-85 F suits them well. A sub-tank heater under one section of the terrarium is the simplest means of provide a healthful temperature gradient. African Bullfrogs do not require UVB light, although low UVB levels, and UVA, may be of some benefit.

Diet

Whole minnows, shiners, earthworms, roaches, hornworms, and crickets can make up most of your frog's diet. A pink mouse may be offered twice monthly, but furred (adult) rodents should be avoided, as long-term use has been linked to liver problems and fur impactions.

Food (other than pinkies and fish) should be powdered with a [Calcium/Vitamin D3 supplement](#). A multiple vitamin/mineral supplement may be used 2-3 times weekly. Inadequate calcium and Vitamin D3 intake will result in a crippling and often fatal condition known as Metabolic Bone Disease. Youngsters do best when fed daily or every-other-day, while adults require 2-3 meals per week. Adapted to a harsh environment, African Bullfrogs will eat as much as offered – one that got into an outdoor snake enclosure at a South African zoo swallowed 17 hatchling spitting cobras before being apprehended!

Cleaning and Handling

Ammonia from waste products is extremely lethal, and should be controlled by near-daily water changes and frequent substrate replacement. The inside of the terrarium can be cleaned out with an appropriate reptile cage cleaner; we recommend [Natural Chemistry's Healthy Habitat](#).

African Bullfrog jaws bear sharp projections known as odontoid structures. They bite readily in self-defense, and will consider a hand moving in their vicinity as a potential meal. They should be handled only when necessary, and then with wet hands so that the skin's protective mucus is not removed. Amphibian skin secretions may cause irritations when transferred to wounds, eyes, or the mouth. Always wash your hands before and after handling any animal.

Fun Fact

Male African Bullfrogs protect their eggs and tadpoles, and have been observed driving young lions away from their brood! Amazingly, when a pool housing their tadpoles begins to dry up, they will dig a channel from a water-filled pool to the drying pool.

Jungle Bob's Reptile World
984 Middle Country Rd. - Selden, NY 11784

www.JungleBobsReptileWorld.com

Maps courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries