

Fire Belly Toad Care Sheet

CREATURE COMFORTS



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Congratulations on your new pet. Fire belly toads are a popular pet that can live for ten to twelve years or more if properly cared for. In the wild the toads are mostly aquatic, inhabiting warm, humid regions, often forests. They spend most of their time soaking in shallow pools, among dense vegetation. They can eat crickets to pinkie mice. They are actually frogs but look like toads because of their bumpy skin. As with all amphibians, fire belly toads should not be handled any more than absolutely necessary due to the negative effects of human skin oils on them.

HOUSING-----

A ten gallon aquarium is sufficient to house two or three fire belly toads and should be considered the smallest size aquarium to use with this species even if only one is kept. If you wish to keep more than three toads it is recommended that you allow four additional gallons of space per additional toad. Due to the possible territorial nature of males of this species you should not keep more than one male. A tight fitting screen top is recommended to allow adequate ventilation and prevent the toads from escaping. A layer of moist moss makes a good substrate for the bottom of the tank. The moss will help to maintain proper humidity. Adding plants, artificial silk or real, will give the toads some hiding places. Being semi-aquatic, your toad will want a fairly large shallow water dish to soak in. The water you use in your toads enclosure should be de-chlorinated. This can be accomplished by the use of commercially available de-chlorinating chemicals, using chlorine free water or allowing chlorinated water to stand in an open container for at least 24 hours to allow the chlorine to dissipate.

HEATING AND LIGHT-----

Heaters are usually not required for this toad as they will do quite well if the temperature in the enclosure is kept at 72–78 degrees fahrenheit during the day with a localized basking spot temperature of 75–85 degrees. At night the temperatures can safely be allowed to drop to 65 degrees without harm to the toads. As fire belly toads are diurnal (day active) animals, you should provide a source of UVB lighting. In most diurnal animals this is required for the assimilation of calcium into the system. A UVB fluorescent light will also provide necessary lighting for live plants if you are using them, without producing the heat that incandescent lights create. It is also good to use a low wattage incandescent spot light bulb to heat an isolated land basking area. R-Zilla makes products that provide both heat, and UVB light for your toads.

DIET-----

Fire bellied toads do not have the long sticky tongues that many frogs and toads are famous for thus they rely on grabbing their prey in their mouths then using their hands to stuff the food in. Not being picky eaters they will eat almost any insect you choose to offer them and benefit greatly from a varied diet. Young toads can be fed daily or every other day all they will eat in about fifteen minutes. Adults should be fed all they can eat in about fifteen minutes two or three times a week. The crickets should be gut loaded and dusted with multi vitamin as well as calcium supplements at each feeding. Any uneaten crickets should be removed from the enclosure after the feeding period to prevent polluting the toad's environment. Wax worms can be fed as an occasional treat.

CLEANING-----

Every day remove and scrub out the water dish and refill with de-chlorinated water. Once a month, remove everything from the tank and wash with a weak bleach solution or Healthy Habitat, including the tank (but not the animals or live plants). Rinse everything thoroughly and allow it to dry & air out completely so that there is no trace of the bleach left, then set everything back up, use fresh moss that has been moistened. Remember to always wash your hands before and after handling reptiles.

HEALTH-----

Consult one of our pet specialists on how to keep your new pet healthy!

FERTILITY-----

Consult one of our pet specialists.

CHECKLIST-----

- ten gallon aquarium with a screen top
- moss for substrate
- large shallow water dish
- thermometer
- UVB lighting
- basking light
- vitamin / mineral / calcium supplement
- food to gut load crickets