

Dwarf Aquarium Frog

African dwarf frogs are native to the rivers and streams of central Africa and have been kept as pets for many years. They are fully aquatic amphibians.

Salmonella precautions

In order to protect yourself (and/or students) from potential exposure to amphibian- or reptile-associated *Salmonella* infection, wash your hands thoroughly after touching or handling any amphibian or reptile, its housing, or anything (including food) that has come into contact with the amphibian or reptile or its feces. Be sure to wear gloves when cleaning the habitat. It is especially important to keep reptiles and amphibians out of food and drink preparation areas or where food/drinks may be consumed.



146700 Dwarf
Aquarium
Frogs

Habitat setup and maintenance

Dwarf aquarium frogs never need to leave the water. Dwarf frogs can live in small aquaria or other similar containers. You should set up your habitat prior to the arrival of your dwarf frogs. Be sure to use conditioned water (see “[General Guidelines on Living Materials from Carolina Biological Supply Company](#)” for information on conditioning tap water). Keep the temperature of the habitat stable, between 18 to 25° C (64 to 77° F). Dwarf frogs need to be able to access the surface of the water to breathe.

Do not place the habitat in direct sunlight. A habitat left in direct sunlight can differ by 5° C above the temperature of the room. At night, such a habitat can cool rapidly, which will stress the frogs and leave them vulnerable to disease.

You may wish to add live or plastic aquatic plants to provide your dwarf frogs with places to rest and hide within their habitat.

Immediate care and handling

Acclimate your frogs as soon as they arrive. Remove approximately 1 cup of shipping water and replace it with 1 cup of conditioned water from the habitat they will be living in. Repeat after 15 minutes; then allow the shipping container to sit undisturbed for an additional 15 minutes. Use an aquarium net to gently transfer the frogs to their habitat. Be sure that the water temperature does not vary by more than 1 or 2 degrees. Place your hand over the top of the net to prevent the frogs from jumping out of the net. If using hold pails, be sure to punch air holes in the lids. All dwarf frog habitats should have lids.

Important: Dwarf aquarium frogs are not native to North America. Do not release them.

FAQs

What should I do with the water in the shipping bag?

Flush the shipping water down the sink. It contains waste products that could be harmful to the habitat.

The shipping bags are cold and the frogs are not moving. Are they dead?

Frogs are cold-blooded. They become less active when they are cold. Allow time for them to warm to room temperature. Do not apply heat or add warm water. Rapid temperature changes could kill the frogs.

The frogs are probably hungry. Should I feed them right away?

Frogs need time to recover and become familiar with their new habitat. Allow 24 hours before attempting to feed your frogs.

(continued)

What should I feed the frogs?

Dwarf frogs cannot see well and need to have their food placed directly in front of them in order to recognize that it is there. We recommend using a pair of forceps or a dropper pipette to dispense the food directly in front of the frog. We recommend feeding with brine shrimp flakes (such as our [item #674753](#)). Dwarf frogs will also eat a variety of live foods including *Daphnia* or *Lumbriculus* worms. Both of these are available from [Carolina](#).

How much food should I give them?

Feed the frogs a pinch of brine shrimp flakes once a day and only as much as they can consume in a few minutes. Live food items can be placed in the habitat with the frogs. Any food the frogs do not eat begins to decay and becomes food for bacteria. An overgrowth of bacteria can decrease water quality and put the frogs under stress. Try to remove any uneaten food and perform a partial water change at least once a week.

How do I know if my frogs are healthy?

Healthy frogs are active and will hide when approached. They also eat voraciously. Check frogs daily and note any change in behavior or appearance.

Any time you suspect your dwarf frogs are sick, your first step should be to check the habitat's water conditions with a water test kit. Poor water conditions often cause some symptoms of diseases and can worsen any conditions your frogs may suffer from. For this reason, it is important to perform partial water changes on a regular schedule.

White spots on the frog's skin may indicate fungal infection. Anti-fungal medications can help treat this condition. Be sure to remove and quarantine any frog that shows signs of disease before treatment.

How can I keep my frogs healthy?

The most important thing you can do for your frogs to keep them healthy is to keep their habitat clean. To remove accumulated waste products, discard and replace 20% of the habitat water with conditioned tap water each week. We recommend keeping a supply of treated water on hand to use for water changes. This assures that the water temperature will be the same as the temperature in the habitat. Disturb your frogs as little as possible while completing water changes. In addition to weekly water changes, you should clean your frog's entire habitat periodically using clean, fresh, hot water and an aquarium scouring pad. Do not use soap to clean the habitat. Follow the directions for acclimation before returning your frogs to their habitat after cleaning.

All of the frogs died soon after we put them into the habitat. What went wrong?

Dwarf aquarium frogs are very sensitive to rapid environmental changes. For this reason we recommend that you acclimate the frogs to their new habitat. Did you use water conditioner in their water? Many municipal water sources now use chlorinators that are not removed by aging the tap water. You may need to use a water conditioner to dechlorinate the water. In addition, tap water may contain metal ions that are toxic to frogs. If this is the case, we recommend using spring water from another source, such as bottled spring water.

Problems?

We hope not, but if so, contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

- Orders and replacements: 800.334.5551, then select Customer Service.
- Technical support and questions: caresheets@carolina.com