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FROGS

Chaco Horned Frog

Chacophrys pierottii

Chacophrys pierottii is a small, round horned frog from dry forest and scrub in the Gran Chaco of South America. It reaches 5-7 cm, burrows into loose soil and spends the dry season in a cocoon of shed skin. The species must live alone, eats mainly insects and is rarely seen in terrariums, so little is known about its care.

Family: Ceratophryidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**5-7 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**3-5 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Savanna and dry forest**
Skin toxins	**None known**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 30 × 25 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-24 °C**
Humidity	**50-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Eggs per clutch	**900-2,000**
Larval period	**14 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Little is known about the care of *Chacophrys pierottii*. The recommendations here are borrowed from *Ceratophrys cranwelli*, which lives in the same region and has the same build and way of life.

TEMPERATURE

By day the enclosure is kept at 24-28 °C and at night at 22-24 °C, which suits the warm, rainy season when the frog is active. A basking spot is not needed, but a heat mat on the side of the enclosure keeps the temperature stable.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity is kept at 50-70 %. The substrate should be slightly damp all the way down. Mist every evening so that the top few centimetres become damp without standing in water.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

Provide a shallow, wide water dish where the frog can sit without having to swim and can easily climb out again; it absorbs water through its skin. Change the water daily, and use tap water treated against chlorine and chloramine.

LIGHTING AND UVB

UVB is not necessary for *Chacophrys pierottii*, but a weak UVB tube (Ferguson zone 1) gives a clear day-night rhythm and does no harm, as long as the frog can burrow down. The night must be dark.

FEEDING

In the wild, adults eat mostly insects such as beetles, bees, ants and caterpillars, and occasionally other frogs. The staple diet in captivity is crickets, locusts, roaches and waxworms, preferably varied with earthworms.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Chacophrys pierottii is a loner that lies buried and still for long periods and strikes when prey passes by. It is most active at night.

NATIVE RANGE

Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay.