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FROGS

Waxy Monkey Tree Frog

Phyllomedusa sauvagii

Phyllomedusa sauvagii is a large, calm tree frog from the Gran Chaco and the adjoining forests of South America. It wipes a waterproof, waxy layer over its own skin and therefore needs a warmer and drier enclosure than most other tree frogs. The skin secretion is biologically active, so wash your hands after contact.

Family: Phyllomedusidae **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-10 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Savanna and dry forest**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-29 °C**
Basking spot	**29-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**50-75%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Winter rest	**18 °C** 4-6 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**On leaves over water**
Sexually mature	**12-18 months**
Eggs per clutch	**200-800**
Hatching	**5-9 days**
Larval period	**28-42 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	*Phyllomedusa sauvagii* is arboreal and needs height and plenty of branches. For two animals 45 × 45 × 60 cm is enough. A group of 3-4 animals needs at least 45 × 45 × 90 cm, and 5-8 animals at least 90 × 45 × 90 cm.
TEMPERATURE	Keep 24-29 °C by day with a warm spot of 29-32 °C at the top and a drop to 18-21 °C at night.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 50-60 % during the day and rise to 70-75 % in the morning and evening when the enclosure has been misted. This is dry for a tree frog and an important difference from e.g. *Agalychnis callidryas*.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Provide a stable water dish with smooth stones or a sloping edge, so the frog can easily get up, and change the water every day. The frog absorbs water through its skin and likes to sit in the dish.
LIGHTING AND UVB	Give 12 hours of light a day and darkness at night, and use plant lighting if the enclosure is planted.
FEEDING	*Phyllomedusa sauvagii* eats insects: crickets, cockroaches, moths, flies and waxworms. The feeder insect must be no wider than the frog's head. Many frogs refuse worm-like food.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Phyllomedusa sauvagii* is calm and slow and walks instead of hopping. It is active at dusk and at night, but gets used to being active when feeder insects are put in the enclosure.
NATIVE RANGE	Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil.