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FROGS

Cane Toad

Rhinella marina

Rhinella marina is one of the largest toads in the world: a sturdy, warty and nocturnal toad from northern South America that grows to 10-24 cm and eats almost anything it can get down. It can live 10-15 years and is hardy, but the glands behind the eyes contain a powerful poison that is dangerous to pets. The species is also notorious as an invasive, so an animal must never be released.

Family: Bufonidae Former name: *Bufo marinus; Chaunus marinus* **Strong skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-24 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Savanna and rainforest**
Skin toxins	**Strong** Avoid skin contact and wash your hands thoroughly after working in the enclosure
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**23-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Eggs per clutch	**8,000-35,000**
Hatching	**1-7 days**
Larval period	**12-60 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and other tadpoles**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
An adult needs an enclosure of at least 120 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height). A small male can manage with less, but females grow largest. Floor area matters more than height.

TEMPERATURE
During the day the enclosure should be about 23-26 °C and never above 28 °C, and at night it can drop to 20-22 °C.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity should be about 60-70 %. The substrate is kept moist, but not wet, and the enclosure is misted with dechlorinated water a couple of times a day, so the toad can absorb water through the skin of the belly.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
The toad must always have a large, stable water dish that it can sit in, and where the water reaches no higher than the mouth, so it does not drown.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species is nocturnal and avoids direct sun, so it does not need strong lighting. UVB is optional: in the wild the animal gets a little UVB in partial shade, but food with calcium and D3 covers the need.

FEEDING
R. marina is a predator and eats almost anything that can fit in its mouth, both live and dead.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The toad is calm and lies hidden most of the day. At night it becomes active and moves in short, quick hops. If it feels threatened, it puffs itself up, raises its body and can secrete poison from the glands behind the eyes.

NATIVE RANGE
Colombia, Venezuela, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.