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FROGS

Gray Treefrog

Dryophytes versicolor

Dryophytes versicolor is a small, compact tree frog of 3-5 cm from eastern North America that changes colour between grey, green and brown depending on the surface, temperature and humidity. It is nocturnal, hardy and a good choice for beginners, and the male's trill is one of the best-known sounds of a spring evening at the forest edge.

Family: Hylidae Former name: *Hyla versicolor* Published 16 November 2026 **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**3-5 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Wetland and temperate woodland and meadow**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**20-26 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Sexually mature	**12-24 months**
Eggs per clutch	**1,000-2,000**
Clutches per year	**1**
Hatching	**3-7 days**
Larval period	**42-65 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
A pair of *D. versicolor* can be kept in an enclosure of 60 × 30 × 45 cm. A single frog manages in a smaller enclosure of about 30 × 30 × 45 cm, and for each additional frog the floor area should be increased a little.

TEMPERATURE
Keep the enclosure at 20-26 °C during the day and a couple of degrees cooler at night, around 18-22 °C.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
The species is not tropical and does not need high humidity. Aim for 50-80 %, and mist the enclosure a few times a week, or daily if the air in the room is very dry.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
D. versicolor should have a water bowl that the frog can sit in, and it is often used at night. The bowl need not be large, but the frog must be able to cover itself completely, and the rim must be easy to climb over.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The frog needs a regular daily rhythm, for example 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness, with enough light for the plants to thrive. Fluorescent tubes or LEDs keep the heat down.

FEEDING
Dryophytes versicolor is an insectivore with a large appetite. It takes crickets, flies, moths, waxworms, small silkworms and earthworms, and crickets can make up the bulk of the diet. Mealworms and waxworms are used for variety.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
D. versicolor is nocturnal and really gets going when the lights go out. During the day it sits still on a branch or a leaf, and at night it uses the whole enclosure.

NATIVE RANGE
United States and Canada.