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FROGS

Asian Painted Frog

Kaloula pulchra

Kaloula pulchra is a chubby, dark brown burrowing frog from South and South-East Asia with two pale bands along the back. When startled it puffs itself up like a balloon, and in the dry season it digs itself down backwards and waits for the rain. It is hardy, needs only a moderate enclosure and lives on ordinary feeder insects.

Family: Microhylidae Published 15 November 2026 **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**5-8 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Savanna and wetland**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 3 adults
Temperature, day	**22-27 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Winter rest	**12-16 °C** 4-6 weeks
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Eggs per clutch	**1,000**
Hatching	**1 days** at 24-25 °C
Larval period	**14-28 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

Kaloula pulchra does not require much space. An aquarium of 50 × 25 × 30 cm (length × width × height) is enough for one frog for its whole life, and an enclosure of 60 × 60 × 60 cm holds two to three adults.

TEMPERATURE

Kaloula pulchra tolerates a wide temperature range. During the day it should be 22-27 °C, and at night it may drop to 18-21 °C. Other figures given are 20-26 °C and 24-27 °C by day and 20-21 °C at night.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING

Humidity should be around 70%, and the box's 60-80% is a guideline. The moisture comes mostly from the damp substrate, but mist part of the enclosure a couple of times a week or daily.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

Place a large, shallow, heavy bowl of water in the enclosure, for example a ceramic dog bowl, which does not tip over when the frog digs.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Kaloula pulchra has no documented need for UVB. There is no known benefit from it, as long as the food is dusted with a good supplement containing calcium and D3. UVB is therefore optional.

FEEDING

In the wild *K. pulchra* lives mostly on ants and termites, but it also takes flies, crickets, moths, locusts and earthworms. In the enclosure it readily takes ordinary feeder insects of suitable size.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

K. pulchra is peaceful, but not an animal for daily handling. Touch the frog only when necessary, for example during cleaning, with clean, damp hands, and wash them afterwards, as the skin secretion can be irritating.

NATIVE RANGE

India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Malaysia and Indonesia.