herpy

FROGS

Cuban Treefrog

Osteopilus septentrionalis

Osteopilus septentrionalis is a large, hardy tree frog from Cuba, the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands. Females grow up to 13 cm, the skin can change colour to match the surroundings, and the long toes with large adhesive discs make it a skilled climber. It is easy to keep, but noisy, voracious and has a skin secretion that can irritate the eyes and mucous membranes.

Family: Hylidae Published 16 November 2026 **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**5-13 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**5-13 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Dry forest, rainforest 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	**45 × 45 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-29 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-90%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 2-3 cm
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Sexually mature	**4-8 months**
Eggs per clutch	**75-1,000**
Hatching	**1-2 days**
Larval period	**21-30 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 enclosure of 45 × 45 × 60 cm is the minimum for 2 adult *Osteopilus septentrionalis*. The frog is active and climbs a lot, so height matters more than floor area, and bigger is better, especially for several animals.

TEMPERATURE
By day *Osteopilus septentrionalis* is kept at 24-29 °C with a slight gradient, so that the frog can choose a warmer or cooler spot.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity should be 60-90 % with a clear rhythm.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
Provide a large, shallow water bowl where *Osteopilus septentrionalis* can sit with most of its body under water, 2-3 cm deep, so that the frog can get out without a struggle.

LIGHTING AND UVB
There is no evidence that *Osteopilus septentrionalis* needs UVB, but weak UVB gives a clear day rhythm and may promote appetite and activity. It is therefore optional.

FEEDING
Osteopilus septentrionalis is a voracious predator that eats anything of suitable size. Offer varied insects: crickets, grasshoppers, cockroaches, fruit flies, mealworms and waxworms, silkworms and small earthworms.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Osteopilus septentrionalis is a nocturnal and shy frog that sleeps in a hide during the day. Males call loudly at night with a rasping, barking cry that can be heard from a long way off and resembles a small dog.

NATIVE RANGE
Cuba, Bahamas and Cayman Islands.