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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 Published 15 November 2026 **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 many branches. For up to two animals 45 × 45 × 60 cm is enough; for 3-4 animals 45 × 45 × 90 cm, for 4-5 animals 60 × 45 × 90 cm and for 5-8 animals 90 × 45 × 90 cm.

TEMPERATURE

Keep 24-29 °C during the day with a hot spot of 29-32 °C at the top and a drop to 18-21 °C at night. The figures vary: some keep the enclosure at 27-28 °C during the day and 24 °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 should 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.