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FROGS

White-lined Leaf Frog

Phyllomedusa vaillantii

Phyllomedusa vaillantii is a nocturnal leaf frog from the Amazon, 5-8 cm long, with a green back, reddish-brown flanks and red, lavender or orange colours on the inner thighs. It walks slowly across branches instead of hopping and lays its eggs in a folded leaf nest over water.

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

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**5-8 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**8-10 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
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 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish** depth 2-5 cm
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	**On leaves over water**
Sexually mature	**12-18 months**
Eggs per clutch	**200-800**
Hatching	**5-14 days** at 24 °C
Larval period	**40-90 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
A tall, well-ventilated enclosure is best, because the frog is arboreal. The minimum is 45 × 45 × 90 cm for two adult animals, and a slightly larger footprint gives more calm if the animals are kept in a small group.

TEMPERATURE
The daytime temperature is kept at 24-28 °C. At night it may fall by 3-6 degrees, to 20-24 °C, as in the wild. A hotspot lamp is not needed if the room is warm enough.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
Humidity should be between 60 and 80 % with natural fluctuations through the day. Mist the enclosure once or twice a day, preferably in the evening, so that it can dry out a little during the day.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
The frog likes to sit in a water bowl at night, and the bowl must therefore be large enough for the animal to sit in the water, and shallow enough that it never risks drowning: 2-5 cm deep with a stone or a branch as an exit.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Provide 10-12 hours of light a day on a timer, and switch the light off at night. Lighting for the plants is enough, and the frog sleeps under the leaves by day, so there must always be shade.

FEEDING
The frog eats live insects that are caught at night: crickets, flies, cockroaches and wax moths. Adults get 2-8 feeder insects per frog, about every second to fifth day.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The species is calm and nocturnal, and it sleeps all day on a leaf with its legs tucked in. At night it becomes active if it is not disturbed. Males call at night, especially after misting.

NATIVE RANGE
Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.