



Firebellied Toad

Oriental firebellied toads are popular pets due to their vivid coloration and modest care requirements. The bright colors on their bellies are intended to deter predators in the wild. They are active, hardy pets which can live from 7-10 years with appropriate care.

General

Handle your firebellied toads as little as possible due to the toxins they secrete. If you must pick up a toad, wash your hands in clean water first and leave them wet. Never touch your eyes, mouth or face when you are handling a toad and always wash your hands thoroughly after.

Housing

Frogs and toads need a specialized home called a vivarium, which is easily made from a "long" glass aquarium, with a securely fitting lid. Toads like company and the size of the tank will depend on how many frogs you keep. A 20 gal aquarium can house up to 4 toads. Choose a hinged lid with a clear plastic panel covering a fluorescent light and ventilation space in the rear. The open rear panel must be covered with screening to prevent the toads escaping. Locate your vivarium away from windows and heating/cooling vents, but near an electrical outlet. Add a submersible water filter/pump rated for at least 30 gallons per hour to oxygenate the water and keep it fresh. Toads need a constant water temperature of 65-75 deg. F, maintained by a fully submersible heater. Monitor the temperature with two adhesive thermometers, one below the water and one halfway up the tank. Cover the floor with aquarium gravel and smooth rocks (intended for fish, not from outdoors) to make dry islands, with live plants completing the landscaping. Finally, use a dechlorinating product to prepare tap water and fill the tank to a depth of a couple of inches. Wait a week or so for the vivarium to settle before adding your toads.

Diet

Feed your toads waxworms and crickets. Each toad should get two small waxworms or two small crickets per week.

Cleaning

Wash down the walls and rocks frequently, using dechlorinated water in a spray bottle, to remove toxins secreted by the toads! Change about half the water water monthly and remove dead food or plants promptly.

Fertility It is very difficult to tell a male from a female firebellied toad. The males are generally smaller, have more warts and chirp during breeding season.

Health

Toads are generally very healthy. They change color from bright green to dark, olive green when they are about to shed. Dirty water or build up of toxins in the vivarium are the cause of most problems.

Warnings

Use new buckets for water and never use soap, or detergents to clean the tank or equipment.