

Dwarf African Clawed Frog

Species: *curtipes*
Genus: *Hymenochirus*
Family: Pipidae
Order: Anura
Class: Amphibian
Phylum: Chordata
Kingdom: Animalia



Conditions for Customer Ownership

We hold permits allowing us to transport these organisms. To access permit conditions, [click here](#).

Never purchase living specimens without having a disposition strategy in place.

A USDA permit is needed to send Dwarf African Clawed Frogs to Ohio because they are a vertebrate animal. Do not release into the environment. House your frog in an escape-proof habitat.

Primary Hazard Considerations

Wash your hands before and after handling frogs for your protection and theirs. Chemicals and toxins can be absorbed through their skin and can poison your frog.

Availability

Dwarf African Frogs are generally available year-round. You should expect them to arrive in a bag containing water. You should immediately float their bag in the tank or habitat that you are going to be housing them; this will allow them to acclimate to the temperature of their new habitat. The frogs should only remain in the bag for a few hours after arrival. They can live longer in the bag if the shipment is delayed, but we recommend only leaving them in the bag for a limited amount of time. Once in their new home, they should begin swimming and exploring.

Captive Care

Habitat:

- A small [Aquarium Tank 21 W 5240](#) (2–10 gallons) is sufficient in housing a few frogs. It is recommended that you house no more than five frogs in a 5-gallon tank. The Dwarf African Clawed Frogs are completely aquatic and will live their whole lives underwater, swimming to the surface for air. Dwarf African Clawed Frogs can also be housed with fish; however the fish might be eaten if they are less than 1". The water should be de-chlorinated before the frogs are released into their new habitat (either use a de-chlorinating chemical such as [Stress Coat 21 W 2338](#) or allow water to sit for 48 hours). An [Aquarium Heater 21 W 4451](#) is necessary in order to keep the water between 72–80°F. Aeration and filtration is recommended ([Air Pump 21 W 2982](#) and [Air Stone 21 W 2920](#)), but not necessary. A water change once a week is necessary to keep their habitat clean. A filter can be used to reduce the number of water changes needed to keep their habitat clean. A well ventilated aquarium cover is necessary in order to keep the frogs from escaping and to allow them to have enough oxygen for survival.

Care:

Dwarf African frogs should be fed every few days and will pretty much eat anything that fits into their mouths. This includes [Daphnia 87 W 5200](#), chopped [Earthworms 87 W 4660](#), [Black Worms 87 W 4680](#), and even small strips of lean meat. Remove uneaten food as it will foul the water quickly.



Information

- Method of reproduction: They reproduce sexually. They can reproduce in captivity. Usually the adults will eat their own eggs, so no tadpoles are formed. If you are worried about having too many frogs, or them reproducing, it is best to separate the males from the females.
- Sexing: Males are slightly smaller and have a slimmer shape than females. The females have a more pear-shaped body than the males. Males also have a yellow or white gland behind their foreleg.

Life Cycle

The females can lay up to 1,000 eggs which either float or sink to the bottom. The eggs take 48 hours to hatch out; after hatching they become tadpoles. After 3–4 weeks the tadpoles' limbs begin to grow. After 6–8 weeks the metamorphosis is complete – the tail is completely reabsorbed and limbs fully grown and the tadpole becomes a frog. It takes them about a year to become a sexually mature adult frog. If properly taken care of an African Dwarf Clawed Frog can live up to 12 years in captivity.

Wild Habitat

Originated from Central Africa, near the Congo River. They can be found in shaded water in lowland rainforest areas and in slow moving rivers.

Disposition

- We do not recommend releasing any laboratory animal into the wild. As a laboratory animal, it has not encountered or learned wild survival skills and is therefore likely to come to an inhumane end.
- Adoption is the preferred disposition for a vertebrate.
- If the animal cannot be adopted by a capable owner, it may be surrendered to your local humane society.
- If the animal must be euthanized, we recommend consulting the AVMA guidelines on euthanasia (American Veterinary Medical Association, http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf).
- According to these guidelines, acceptable methods of euthanasia for an amphibian includes exposure to CO₂ at >60% or treatment with tricaine methane sulfonate (also known as TMS, MS-222 and [Biocalm 947-2100](#)). TMS is an anesthetizing agent that will cause fish and amphibian death due to central nervous system depression and hypoxia with overexposure. Wear personal protective equipment (gloves, safety glasses, labcoat) when handling TMS. The fish or amphibian is placed in a solution of 5 g of TMS per 5 gallons of water for 30 minutes or until all motion has ceased. To make sure the animal is dead, check for reflexive movement when the eye is touched. If movement occurs, replace the animal in the TMS solution for another 30 minutes.
- A deceased specimen should be disposed of as soon as possible. Consult your school's recommended procedures for disposal. In general, a small dead vertebrate should be handled with gloves, wrapped in an absorbent material (e.g., newspaper), wrapped again in an opaque plastic bag, then placed inside a opaque plastic bag that is sealed (tied tightly) before being placed in a general garbage container away from students.