

# Dwarf Aquarium Frogs

## A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

### **NEW! Salmonella Precautions**

In order to protect yourself (and/or students) from the risk of amphibian- or reptile-associated *Salmonella* infection, wash your hands thoroughly after touching or handling any amphibian or reptile, its housing, or anything (including food) that has come in contact with a reptile or amphibian or its feces. Be sure to wear gloves when cleaning the habitat. It is especially important to keep reptiles and amphibians out of food or drink preparation areas or where food/drinks may be consumed.

### **Immediate Care and Handling**

Acclimate your frogs as soon as they arrive. Remove one cup of shipping water and replace it with one cup of conditioned room-temperature tap water. (See General Guidelines for information on conditioning tap water.) Repeat after 15 minutes; allow the shipping container to sit undisturbed for 15 additional minutes. Then use an aquarium net to gently transfer frogs to holding pails or aquaria. (Water temperature must not vary by more than 1° C/2° F.) Hold your hand over the net to prevent the frogs from jumping out. If using holding pails, punch air holes in the lids. Aquaria should also have lids.

### **Habitat Setup and Maintenance**

Dwarf aquarium frogs never need to leave the water. Care for them in an aquarium and condition their water. Keep the temperature stable, between 18 to 25° C (64 to 77° F). Do not place in direct sunlight or unusually bright artificial light. Remember, frogs are cold-blooded animals. An aquarium in direct sunlight may have a temperature as much as 5° C above the temperature of the room. At night, such an aquarium cools rapidly, stressing the frogs and leaving them vulnerable to disease.

**Important:** *Dwarf aquarium frogs are not native to North America. Do not release them.*

### **FAQ's**

*What should I do with the water in the shipping bag?*

Flush the shipping water down a sink, as it contains waste products.

*The shipping bags are cold and the frogs aren't moving. Are they dead?*

The frogs become less active when they are cold. Allow time for them to warm to room temperature. Never apply heat or add warm water to hasten this process. A rapid change of temperature can damage the frogs.

*The frogs are probably hungry, so I should feed them, right?*

They need time to recover and become familiar with their new environment. Wait a day before feeding them.

*What should I feed the frogs?*

We recommend brine shrimp flakes only.

*How much food should I give them?*

Less than you think. Follow the feeding schedule that came with your order; typically this means feeding the frogs a pinch of brine shrimp flakes once a day. Feed frogs only as much as they can eat in a few minutes.

Any food that the frogs do not eat may become food for bacteria, and too many bacteria in the aquarium may use up the oxygen in the water. This stresses the frogs and other animals in the aquarium. When possible, try to remove any uneaten food.

*How do I know if my frogs are healthy?*

Check frogs daily and note any change in behavior or appearance. A white spot on the skin that gradually grows larger may indicate a fungal infection. Remove diseased frogs before they transmit disease.

*How can I keep my frogs healthy?*

The introduction period is critical, so acclimate your frogs properly. Maintain the aquarium, as well. Once each month, remove about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the water and replace it with fresh water that has been aged and treated with water conditioner. This dilutes any toxic buildup and keeps the pH and ionic balance within a normal range. Never replace more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the water at a time. Avoid sudden changes to the aquarium. Stressed frogs often become sick frogs, so keep their environment stable and fresh.

*All the frogs died soon after we put them in the aquaria. What went wrong?*

Did you properly acclimate the frogs? Did you use a water conditioner? Some city water systems now use chlorinators that are not removed by aging the tap water, so you may need to also use a water conditioner to dechlorinate the water. In addition, your tap water may contain metal ions that are toxic to frogs. This is especially likely if the water pipes at your school are less than 3 years old or if there have been recent repairs to the plumbing. In either case, you may have to use water from another source, such as bottled water.

**Problems?** We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

**Orders and replacements:** 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

**Technical Support and Questions:** [caresheets@carolina.com](mailto:caresheets@carolina.com)



© 2008 Carolina Biological Supply Company