

African dwarf frog care sheet



African dwarf frogs originated in the rivers and streams of central Africa. These fully aquatic amphibians never need to leave the water. African dwarf frogs can be kept with community fish. Their colors can range from olive green to brownish green.

facts

scientific name:	Hymenochirus curtipes
average adult size:	1 ¼ inches long,
average life span:	up to 5 years with proper care
diet:	omnivore
minimum aquarium size:	10+ gallons
water temperature:	72 to 82°



Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, refer to the Sources section or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.

diet

A well-balanced African dwarf frog diet consists of:

- Bloodworms, brine shrimp and mysis shrimp (frozen).
- Sinking fish food pellets.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your African dwarf frog:

- Feed one to two times a day.
- Thaw frozen food before feeding.

housing

- Keep in an appropriately sized aquarium; provide plenty of hiding places and a secure lid to prevent escape.
- Stable water quality and parameters are critical to the health of aquatic life. If you are unsure of your water quality, Petco provides free water testing.
- Use of copper-based medications is toxic to dwarf frogs.

characteristics

- Brown, mottled skin.
- Back feet have three “claws.”
- Spends most of the day on the bottom of the tank, but swims to the surface to breathe air.

habitat maintenance

- Daily: Check filter, water temperature and other equipment.
- Weekly: Check water quality at least once a week.
- Monthly: Change 10 to 25% of the total volume of water every 2 to 4 weeks, or as needed.
- Introduce new inhabitants to the aquarium gradually.

compatibility

- Can be kept with relatively docile fish that will not attempt to eat them, such as community tetras or loaches. Check Petco’s Freshwater Compatibility Care Sheet for more information regarding your specific species.
- Can be kept with other African dwarf frogs of both sexes.

signs of a healthy animal

- Swims actively and periodically surfaces to breathe air
- Hides often
- Eats vigorously
- Clear eyes and smooth skin

Avoid overcrowded conditions, which are a major cause of stress and disease. Maintain good water quality with regular water changes and adequate filtration.

red flags

- Loss of appetite
- Hazy or cloudy eyes
- Does not swim away from capture
- Floating on the top of the aquarium
- Bloating
- Weight loss
- Signs of disease

common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Bacterial infection	Cloudy eyes, open sores or reddening of the skin.	Improve water quality and consult your aquatic veterinarian for treatment.
Fungal infection	White cottony growth and/or discoloration of the eyes.	Quarantine frog immediately; seek veterinary advice.

If you notice any of these signs, test water quality and improve as necessary.

shopping list for needed supplies

- Appropriately sized aquarium
- Appropriate food, dry and frozen
- Décor
- Water conditioner
- Filter
- Water test kit
- Full spectrum lighting
- Net
- Thermometer
- Freshwater substrate
- Heater
- Airline tubing
- Airstone
- Air pump
- Book about African dwarf frogs

sources

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on African dwarf frogs and the variety of private brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All private brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all aquatic life are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as *Atypical Mycobacterium* and *Salmonella*, always wash your hands before and after handling your aquatic life or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of disease.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5, senior citizens and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing or caring for aquatic life and should consider not having aquatic life as a pet.

Go to cdc.gov/healthypets and petco.com/caresheet for more information about aquatic frogs and disease.

This Care Sheet can cover the care needs of other species. Go to petco.com for more information.

