

## shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately sized habitat
- book about toads
- substrate
- moss
- water and mealworm dishes
- hideaway place
- climbing décor
- plants
- heat light
- heat fixture
- under tank heater
- UVB lighting
- vitamin supplement
- calcium supplement
- cricket keeper
- cricket food

## sources

Ask an associate about Petco's selection of books on Toads and the variety of Petco Brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All Petco Brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all Toads are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Salmonella, always wash your hands before and after handling your Toad and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a Toad and should consider not having a Toad as a pet. Go to the Centers for Disease Control at [cdc.gov/healthypets/](http://cdc.gov/healthypets/) for more information about Toads and disease. Go to [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet) to download other helpful Care Sheets.

This care sheet can cover the needs of other species. See [petco.com](http://petco.com) for more information.

# Toads

*includes african bouncing, egyptian, moroccan green, southern, yellow belly, reticulated, lemon, bumblebee and malayan forest toads*



## Care Sheet

**Toads recognize routine; feed them at the same time and you'll find them waiting to eat. Toads do not like being handled, and their skin is mildly toxic, so be sure to wear latex gloves if need to handle a toad.**

### Toads facts:

- average adult size: 2 to 6 inches, depending on species
- average life span: up to 10+ years with proper care, depending on species
- diet: insectivore

*Will reach adult size in 6-18 months, depending on species and under ideal conditions; upgrade habitat size as your amphibian grows.*

**Note:** The information in this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

# Care Sheet

## Toads

includes african bouncing, egyptian, moroccan green, southern, yellow belly, reticulated, lemon, bumblebee and malayan forest toads



Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.

### diet

A well-balanced Toad diet consists of:

- A variety of insects, including gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets, mealworms and waxworms.

### feeding

Things to remember when feeding your Toad:

- Fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should be available at all times.
- Feed juveniles daily, adults 2-3 times a week.
- Sprinkle food with calcium supplement daily and a multi-vitamin supplement once or twice a week.

### housing

- Size - appropriate size and shape habitat to accommodate normal behavior and exercise.
- Habitat - for terrarium,

provide a water bowl to submerge in. If needed; add filtered, chlorine-free water to soil at one side only, so one side is moist (not wet) and other is dry, allowing the Toad to choose. Add pieces of bark or commercial decor for hiding places. Maintain greater than 60% humidity by misting as needed every day.

- Substrate - use a mulch-type substrate such as coconut fiber, dampened sphagnum moss and bark; avoid gravel and artificial turf (too harsh for skin).
- Temperature - temperature range of 65°F to 82°F.
- Lighting - fluorescent lighting 10-12 hours a day is required. An incandescent day bulb can be used for basking area if ceramic heater is not being used; low level UVB lighting is recommended, but

provide hiding spots to hide from light as needed.

- House adult Toads separately and do **not** house different amphibian species together.

### normal behavior

- Nocturnal (active during the night).
- Recognize routine; feed at the same time every day.

### habitat maintenance

Thoroughly clean the habitat at least once a week; place Toad in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings; rinse thoroughly with hot water; dry the tank and furnishings completely and add clean substrate.

### grooming & hygiene

Don't handle unless necessary; always wear latex gloves when han-

dling your Toad; residue or oil on your skin can harm amphibians; all amphibians secrete toxins, do not allow Toad's secretions to contact eyes, mouth, or open wounds. You can use an appropriate sized, small-mesh, soft net to move or block the Toad while doing habitat maintenance. Don't be surprised to see your Toad eating his shed skin.

### signs of a healthy animal

- Active and alert
- Eats regularly
- Healthy skin; clear eyes
- Maintains weight

### red flags

- weight loss
- skin lesions
- skin parasites
- bloating or swelling
- excessive yawning
- poor balance
- distressed breathing
- lethargy
- cloudy or dull eyes

*If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.*

### common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Chemical intoxication	Caused by exposure to soap, detergent, pesticides, etc.	Consult your exotic animal veterinarian and protect your amphibian from exposure.
Intestinal obstruction	Caused by swallowing gravel or by eating too many hard-shelled insects.	Consult with your exotic animal veterinarian; surgery may be required.
Nutritional deficiencies	Weak hind legs, lethargy, lighter or darker skin color.	Consult your exotic animal veterinarian and ensure varied diet; use vitamin and mineral supplements.
Skin problems	Abrasions, bacterial and fungal infections.	Consult with your exotic animal veterinarian.