

Cuban Tree Frog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*)



Country of Origin	Cuba, USA
Average Size	3"
Temperament	Shy but with large appetite
Food Source	Livefood
Experience Level	Beginner

The Cuban Tree Frog is a large frog originally from Cuba, which has settled (due to introduction) in the United States, especially in Florida and similar regions. Although smaller than many of the larger oriental and South American tree frogs, it is the largest tree frog that can survive in the United States, and often feeds on smaller amphibians in the wild. Therefore, it is important that this frog is only housed with similar sized tree frogs, as it will eat what it can fit into its mouth. Females are larger than males, and males often have a darker throat area.

This tree frog is famous for its large appetite, and will eat not only other amphibians – but smaller members of its own species, insects (including spiders) snakes, lizards and even tiny baby birds! It is safe to house communally with same sized or larger species of tree frog.

In the wild, it is considered an invasive species – it is not native to the United States, but having been brought there during the importation of goods from Cuba, has created havoc with the natural ecosystem, almost wiping out several species of small native frogs, and interfering with many others. In captivity it is a popular and easy species to keep. It is a very adaptable, hardy frog with the ability to survive in many environments, given some heat and humidity levels.

In captivity, the Cuban tree frog should be kept in an enclosure that has some height, as they are arboreal species. An enclosure with at least 24" of height would be ideal. The substrate of the tank should be one that maintains humidity well but one that will not be ingested with food, such as top soil, orchid bark or moss. Branches and plants should be provided, these can be live plants or plastic, and the tree frog will spend much of the day hiding in them. A large bowl of clean water should be provided.

The ideal daytime temperature is between 78 and 88 F, with a night time temperature of 65F or above. These animals are nocturnal and will not bask, and do not require full spectrum lighting. They are a fairly tolerant species and the temperature does not have to be precise. Humidity needs to remain high, from 70 to 90%, daily misting should achieve this.

As previously mentioned these are good eaters. Juveniles should be fed daily, but adults can be fed every 2 or 3 days. 6 to 8 crickets should be adequate per feeding. Using a calcium supplement is advised.

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