



## Husbandry Handbook

# WAXY MONKEY TREE FROG

*Phyllomedusa sauvagii*

### A Walking Frog

Known for its human-like hands, the waxy tree frog has unusually long dexterous limbs with opposable thumbs that give it the ability to grab branches. This characteristic makes it possible for the waxy monkey tree frog to walk or climb instead of jumping or hopping. These tree frogs are 3-4" in length with a uniformly waxy colored lime green or olive dorsal and white or paler colored streaks on its chest, belly, and undersides of its limbs. Waxy monkey tree frogs also have some rare physiological adaptations for reducing water loss through their skin by secreting a waxy substance of uric acid and lipid secretions that are then spread over their bodies with their forelimbs and hind limbs.

### Habitat

Waxy monkey tree frogs are indigenous to the tropical and sub-tropical rainforests, wetlands, and swamps of South America. In their natural habitat, they experience windy, hot and dry conditions. These tree frogs are nocturnal and can be found sleeping perched on a branch during the day.

### Housing

Housing for tree frogs must be sealed and escape proof with a secure hood. Waxy monkey tree frogs require a minimum of a Zilla® 12x12x20 Front Opening Terrarium. They can be housed as a pair or in a group of 6 to 8 frogs depending on the size of the terrarium. For every additional tree frog, increase the enclosure size. The enclosure should have multiple horizontal perches along with live or artificial foliage, logs, driftwood, and other terrarium furnishings. These tree frogs require a humidity of 50 to 70%. To provide an optimal humidity level, use substrates such as Zilla® Jungle Mix or Terrarium Moss and a large shallow water dish; mist the enclosure at least once daily.

### Temperature and Lighting

Waxy monkey tree frogs require additional UVA/UVB lighting as a heat source such as the Zilla® Mini Heat & UVB Fixture with a 50W Day Blue Zilla® Mini Halogen Bulb and Zilla® Tropical Mini Compact Fluorescent Bulb. The ambient temperature should be kept at 75-92°F with a high basking temperature of 90-100°F at one side of the tank. Nighttime temperatures can drop to 75-85°F. To maintain a healthy environment for the tree frog, provide low relative humidity and a high basking temperature for them to achieve a desired thermal temperature and to properly metabolize.

### Feeding and Diet

The waxy monkey tree frogs are insectivorous and will eat insects, arachnids, and other invertebrates. Tree frogs should be fed appropriately sized insects such as crickets, roaches, mealworms, superworms, and waxworms. Feeder insects should be given Zilla® Gut Load Cricket Drink **with Calcium(?)**. To prevent Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD) and other growth and nutritional deficiencies, spray insects with Zilla® Calcium Supplement 1-2 times weekly for additional calcium and Vitamin D3. It's important to not overfeed tree frogs as obesity and other health issues may occur.

### Handling

Tree frogs should only be handled when necessary as they are delicate amphibians. Frogs do not tolerate handling very well as they can absorb dangerous chemicals or oils through their soft and permeable skin. Before handling an amphibian, wash your hands thoroughly to remove all lotions, oils and bacteria that may be on your hands.

***Be sure to wash your hands after handling any animals.***

