



Tadpole Care Sheet

WATER: Pond water or creek water from an unpolluted source is best. If tap water is more convenient, you need to treat it with a chemical de-chlorinator, available in pet shops.

Water should be changed when it becomes fouled. Indications that the water needs changing include a cloudy appearance/unpleasant odour/presence of tadpoles lingering near the surface/waste settling at the bottom of the tank. Replacing a third to a half of the water at one time is usually sufficient. The new water must be the same temperature as the water already in the tank – drastic changes in water temperature can kill your tadpoles.

FILTER: A filter is not necessary, but can reduce the number of water changes that will be needed. The filter should not be so strong that it creates too much current— tadpoles are poor swimmers. Make sure the tadpoles won't be sucked up into the filter and that they don't have to swim constantly. This can be achieved by selecting the proper sized filter. A filter will list on its packaging the size of aquarium it is designed to handle. You can reduce the amount of food wasted and the frequency with which you need to clean the filter by turning it off during feedings.

FOOD: Algae from an unpolluted water source is best. However, fish flakes can also be used. In order to provide the correct diet, be sure to choose fish flakes with a high concentration of plant ingredients; such as spirulina. Avoid flakes that are made with animal matter. A few small pinches two or three times a day is better than one large feeding.

TANK: Do not overcrowd your tank with too many tadpoles. A general rule is less than one inch of tadpole per gallon of water. Remember your tadpoles will grow larger over time. Be sure to provide an area for the maturing tadpoles to crawl out of the water as their breathing apparatus changes from gills to lungs. This 'land' area should be against an edge of the tank, not in the middle as some species will only look along the edge for a place to emerge, swimming until they become exhausted and drown. Make sure your tank has a secure lid, as wet froglets and toadlets can climb glass.

RELEASE: Timely release of tadpoles is critical. When your tadpoles begin to come out of the water to breathe, it is a signal that they have metamorphosed from vegetarian to carnivore. It is time to quickly release them. Return them only to the environment where you got them and only if you have permission.

