



**CONCISE CARE SHEETS**

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**B O R N E O  
E A R E D F R O G**

**INTRO**

A gliding tree frog that gets fairly large, the Bornean Eared Frog (*Polypedates otitophus*) gets its name from the prominent ridges behind its eyes that look like big spiky ears. It has also been called the File-eared Frog. In reality these ridges are bony extensions of the skull. Its shape is certainly unique, and it has gliding surfaces that extend from its legs and, along with the webbed toes of its rear feet, it can cover distances in the air after it leaps.

Borneo Eared Frogs are found only on the island of Borneo, where they inhabit the canopy of tropical rainforests. Their color and pattern does a fantastic job of hiding these frogs as they sleep during the day upon tree trunks. Although an inhabitant of tropical forests, this frog will not tolerate high temperatures and is best kept in the mid 70s.

**GENERAL CARE & FEEDING**

Borneo Eared Frogs are fairly easy to care for. As stated above, one very important factor is to avoid temperatures much above 80°F. Even the mid 80s can be lethal to these frogs. Appropriately-sized crickets are a good primary food, and should be dusted with a quality reptile vitamin and mineral supplement. Other insect fare may be offered for variety.

**HOUSING**

Borneo Eared Frogs are easy to house. A large terrarium such as an 18x18x24 Exo Terra Glass Terrarium is a good size for 2-4 juveniles or adults. Various substrates may be used. For a truly naturalistic display, finely ground coconut fiber covered with a layer of sphagnum moss is a good choice. When using sphagnum moss it should be pressed down and compacted so tht the moss is flat. This will greatly reduce the risk of the frogs ingesting any of the moss when eating, which can lead to intestinal impaction. Some keepers, especially breeders, prefer a more simple terrarium that allows for ease of maintenance and healthy conditions. Paper towel is the choice of substrate for this sort of enclosure. The damp paper towel should be changed a minimum of 2-3 times a week. Another popular substrate is called frog foam. It isn't natural in appearance, but makes a very nice reasonably attractive substrate that helps keep the frogs in great conditions. Borneo Eared Frogs need constant access to fresh, clean dechlorinated water so a large water bowl is a must! Use an easy to clean dish as the frogs will defecate in it and it will require daily cleaning. Scrub the dish and disinfect with a 5% bleach solution or a reptile disinfectant such as ReptiSan.

These frogs are easily kept in groups, especially when young. It is most important to ensure that all frogs are getting adequate food. Sometimes froglets will out-compete each other, and any smaller, less aggressive frogs should then be housed alone until they are larger and stronger. As adults, males may harass females by constantly trying to mate. If this happens, it is best separate the frogs or reduce the humidity.

**HUMIDITY**

Borneo Eared Frogs require moderately high humidity (60-70%). A digital hygrometer should be used to ensure humidity is maintained in this range. Providing adequate ventilation is very important so the top of the terrarium should be at least half screen. Stagnant, humid conditions will quickly lead to bacterial skin infections in Borneo Eared Frogs. A large dish of clean water should always be provided and, as mentioned above, must be cleaned and disinfected regularly..

**HANDLING & ACTIVITY**

Like all amphibians, frogs of any kind should not be handled. Their sensitive skins can be damaged by abrasions from your skin, and they absorb toxins such as oils and household chemicals from your skin. Captive dart frogs lose their own poisonous skin toxins, but they still should never be handled. They are fragile terrarium pets that should be observed and not interacted with.

**HEALTH**

Properly maintained Borneo Eared frogs rarely encounter health pro-

**QUICK TIPS**

- » 65-76°F, with ideal temps in the mid 70s
- » Must avoid temps above 80°F!
- » Requires well-planted tropical terrarium with little or no ventilation

blems, and any that might occur would be very difficult to treat. It is important that adequate ventilation is maintained so that Borneo Eared frogs do not develop bacterial conditions caused by stagnant conditions. The most important thing with any amphibian is using dechlorinated water that is clean and pure. Reverse osmosis water is popular with many keepers.

**SEXING**

Borneo Eared frogs are impossible to sex at the young age captive-bred specimens are normally sold at. However, it is fairly easy to sex adults. Females are much larger than males, with a wider and more stout head. Females will be about 1" longer than males, and are easily 50% heavier.