



Mantella Dart Frog Care Sheet

Species name:

Mantellidae

Adult size:

3-4cm

Lifespan:

4-8 Years

Breeding age:

2 years



Mantellas are small, colourful frogs native to Madagascar, known for their bright, jewel-like colours. Unlike poison dart frogs from Central and South America, mantellas inhabit Madagascar's unique ecosystems and differ significantly in behaviour and habitat. Both groups produce toxins in the wild, mantellas derive their toxins from their insect diet, and this toxicity diminishes in captivity. Mantellas are terrestrial, often found in leaf litter or near water sources, whereas many dart frogs exhibit more arboreal habits. Their vibrant patterns serve as a warning to predators, showcasing their chemical defences.

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Housing:

Enclosure: Most mantella are terrestrial species; they will benefit from a glass enclosure which is longer than it is tall. 30x30x20cm or 60x45x45 for multiple frogs.

Substrate: Use a substrate that retains moisture well, such as coconut coir or orchid bark. Why not consider setting your dark frog up in a self-sustaining bio-active terrarium?

Temperature:

Maintain a temperature gradient within the enclosure. Provide a heat source, such as a heating pad or ceramic heat emitter on one side, to achieve a warm side.

Warm side temperature of around 24°C

Cooler side around 21-23°C

Night-time temperature: 18-22°C

Lighting:

A shade dwelling 6% UVB light should be used.

They will also require a day/night cycle. It is recommended they are provided with around 14 hours of light during the summer and down to 10 hours in the winter.

Feeding:

Diet: Dart Frogs eat a diet consisting mainly of flightless fruit flies or very small crickets.

Because their prey is so small, they are capable of eating up to 50 flies a day.

Feeding Schedule: Feed every day and dust insects with a multivitamin supplement (especially vitamin A) at least twice a week.



Hydration:

Water Bowl: Provide a shallow water dish. Mist the enclosure daily to maintain humidity levels around 70-100% and provide water droplets for the frogs to lick.

Handling and Enrichment:

Handling: It is best your Dart Frog are not handled.

Enrichment: Provide climbing opportunities and branches. Artificial plants and hiding spots can help create a more stimulating environment.

Health Care:

Health Checks: Regularly observe your Frogs to see if you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance. If something does not seem right seek professional advice promptly.

Hygiene: Keep the enclosure clean, removing waste and uneaten food promptly.

Quarantine: Quarantine new Frogs before introducing them to existing ones to prevent the spread of disease.

Poison Dart Frogs make fascinating pets when provided with the right care. Always do thorough research and consult with a veterinarian for specific advice based on your animals individual needs.