



Riobamba Marsupial Frog Care Sheet

Species name:

Gastrotheca riobambae

Adult size:

6-7cm

Lifespan:

5-6 Years

Breeding age:

2 Years



Riobamba marsupial frogs, belonging to the *Gastrotheca* genus, are fascinating amphibians endemic to the Andean cloud forests of Ecuador. Characterized by their unique reproductive strategy, females possess pouches similar to marsupials, where they carry developing tadpoles until they metamorphose into froglets. These nocturnal creatures exhibit cryptic coloration, blending seamlessly with moss-covered rocks and foliage. Unfortunately, they face severe threats from habitat loss due to deforestation and climate change-induced alterations in their fragile cloud forest habitat. Conservation efforts focus on preserving their habitat and raising awareness to safeguard these extraordinary frogs from the brink of extinction.

Housing:

Enclosure: A vertically oriented terrarium is ideal, as Marsupial Frogs are arboreal. An 45x45x60cm terrarium is recommended for one or two adult Frogs.

Substrate: Use a substrate that retains moisture well, such as coconut coir or orchid bark. Ensure that the substrate is deep enough for burrowing and provides humidity. Consider setting your 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 23-25°C

Cooler side around 21-23°C

Night-time temperature: 18-22°C

Lighting:

Arboreal frogs do not require UVB lighting however there are studies that indicate it has benefits towards their health and well-being. A shade dwelling UVB light can therefore be used at the owner's discretion.

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: Feed a well-balanced diet consisting of live insects like crickets and mealworms.

Feeding Schedule: Feed every other day for adults and daily for juveniles.

Dust insects with a multivitamin supplement at least twice a week.



Hydration:

Water Bowl: Provide a water dish for drinking and bathing. Mist the enclosure daily to maintain humidity levels around 60-70%.

Handling and Enrichment:

Gentle Handling: Marsupial Frogs are generally docile but can be jumpy. Handle them gently and infrequently to minimize stress.

When handling amphibians, ensure your hands are clean of any chemicals, because frogs absorb through their skin, they can be very sensitive to chemical burns. If in doubt wear powderless gloves when handling your frog.

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 Frog 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.

Whites Tree Frogs make fascinating and low-maintenance pets when provided with the right care. Always do thorough research and consult with a veterinarian for specific advice based on your frog's individual needs.