**YVCipedia AMPHIBIANS**

Green Frog & American Bullfrog Care Sheet

## **Species Overview**

Green frogs and American bullfrogs are North American amphibians known for their aquatic lifestyle and booming vocalizations. The green frog typically grows to 2–3.5 inches in length, while the American bullfrog is the largest native frog in the U.S., reaching lengths up to 8 inches. These frogs are carnivorous and opportunistic feeders, often eating insects, worms, and small vertebrates.

Both species are highly aquatic, spending most of their time in or around water. They are best suited for keepers prepared to maintain high water quality and stable environmental conditions.

## **Housing & Environment**

Both green frogs and bullfrogs require large enclosures with ample swimming space and access to resting areas above water. A secure lid is necessary, as both species are capable of climbing or jumping out of enclosures.

### **Enclosure Setup**

* **Green frog:** Minimum 10–20 gallon tank for a single frog
* **Bullfrog:** Minimum 55–75 gallon tank due to size and activity level
* **Water depth:** At least 6–8 inches, deeper for adult bullfrogs
* **Land area:** Floating platforms, cork bark, or sloped dry areas
* **Hides:** Aquatic plants, driftwood, or rock caves to reduce stress

### **Water Quality**

* Use dechlorinated or conditioned water
* Maintain clean water with a low-flow filtration system
* Partial water changes (25–30%) weekly
* Ideal pH: 6.5–7.5
* Ammonia and nitrite: 0 ppm

## **Temperature, Lighting & Humidity**

These species are adapted to temperate environments and should not be kept in tropical conditions.

* **Temperature:** Maintain ambient range of 65–75°F; no heat source is typically needed indoors
* **Lighting:** Provide a day/night cycle of 10–12 hours; UVB is not required but can be beneficial
* **Humidity:** 50–70%; achieved through open water and occasional misting
* Avoid direct sunlight and overheating

## **Diet & Nutrition**

Both species are insectivorous, with bullfrogs often eating larger prey due to their size. Feeding should be appropriate for the frog’s size to prevent choking or digestive issues.

### **Recommended Diet**

* Crickets, roaches, earthworms
* Bloodworms, blackworms (especially for green frogs)
* Bullfrogs may consume feeder fish or pinkie mice on occasion
* Dust prey with calcium (1–2x/week) and multivitamin (1x/week)

### **Feeding Schedule**

* **Green frogs:** Feed 3–4 times per week
* **Bullfrogs:** Juveniles feed every 1–2 days; adults 2–3 times weekly
* Remove uneaten food after 15–20 minutes to maintain water quality

## **Behavior & Handling**

These frogs are mostly nocturnal and may hide during the day. They are sensitive to stress and should not be handled regularly. When handling is necessary, wear powder-free gloves or wet your hands thoroughly with dechlorinated water.

* Green frogs may be more skittish and prefer quiet environments
* Bullfrogs are bold but prone to escape attempts
* Both species may vocalize, especially during mating seasons or stress

## **Health & Veterinary Care**

Amphibians are prone to health issues when husbandry is not ideal. Water quality is the most critical factor in maintaining good health.

### **Common Health Concerns**

* Skin infections or ulcers from poor water quality
* Nutritional deficiencies (especially without supplementation)
* Bloating, abnormal buoyancy
* Internal parasites (more common in wild-caught frogs)
* Obesity in bullfrogs from overfeeding or lack of exercise

### **Signs of Illness**

* Lethargy or floating aimlessly
* Discoloration or shedding of skin
* Loss of appetite
* Open sores or fuzzy patches on skin

Schedule annual checkups with a veterinarian experienced in amphibians, and quarantine new additions before introducing them to established tanks.

## **Enrichment & Habitat Design**

Creating a stimulating environment helps encourage natural behaviors and reduce stress.

### **Enrichment Suggestions**

* Varied terrain and water depth
* Aquatic plants (real or artificial)
* Hiding spots under rocks or logs
* Regular rearrangement of tank decor
* Observation of feeding behavior and response to environmental changes

## **Facts & FAQs**

* American bullfrogs are the largest native frogs in the U.S.
* Green frogs can be identified by the ridge running from the eye down the side of the body
* Both species are primarily aquatic and need large water areas
* Bullfrogs are known for their loud, booming calls
* These frogs are not ideal for handling and do best with observation-only care

## **Supplies Checklist**

* Appropriate-size aquarium with secure lid
* Water conditioner
* Low-flow filter or sponge filter
* Floating platforms or land area
* Thermometer and water test kits
* Calcium and vitamin supplements
* Live or frozen feeder insects and worms
* Amphibian-safe cleaning tools
* Hides and aquatic plants for cover

*Yarmouth Veterinary Center*