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# **BARKING TREE FROG**

*Hyla gratiosa*

**ORIGIN:** Barking tree frogs are native to the south-eastern U.S. Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains. They are found south of Virginia and west through Louisiana. Barking tree frogs inhabit heavily wooded habitats and prefer to live in trees.

**SIZE:** Barking tree frogs reach an average adult length of 2.5 inches.

**CAGING:** Barking tree frogs will thrive in a variety of plastic and glass cages which will readily maintain moderate humidity levels. A 10-gallon aquarium is large enough to house up to six adult frogs.

**SUBSTRATE:** Barking tree frogs are arboreal and typically do not spend time on the cage floor. A substrate that maintains humidity such as peat moss, orchid bark, or mulch is ideal and provides for live plants.

**TEMPERATURE:** Barking tree frogs are a temperate species and do not require any supplemental heat. They will thrive in standard household temperatures.

**LIGHT:** Barking tree frogs do not require any special lighting. However, providing full-spectrum fluorescent lights will benefit the frogs as well as any plants in the cage.

**WATER:** Barking tree frogs should be provided with fresh, clean water at all times. A small, shallow

water bowl should be used. In addition, the cage should be misted at least once daily to maintain humidity levels which are comfortable for the frogs.

**DIET:** Barking tree frogs feed on a variety of commercially available feeder insects including mealworms, crickets, and wax worms. Prior to feeding, insects should be dusted with a vitamin and mineral supplement powder for reptiles.

## **RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES**

- Glass or plastic enclosure
- Secure lid for enclosure
- Substrate as detailed above
- Literature about tree frog husbandry
- Hiding area such as cork bark or imitation rock
- Live or artificial plants
- Shallow water dish
- Vitamin and mineral supplement
- Spray bottle

## **OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES**

- Fluorescent light
- Colored incandescent bulb for nighttime viewing
- Decorative cage background
- Misting or drip system

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**NOTE:** The information contained in this caresheet solely represents the opinions of the author.

*It is not intended as a complete guide to captive husbandry.*