



BRISBANE BIRD & EXOTICS
VETERINARY SERVICE

Quality Care in Sickness and in Health



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What should you feed your frog?

Introduction

Frogs in the wild have evolved to eat a large variety of natural foods. Unfortunately, it is difficult for us to replicate their natural diet in captivity. There are also no commercially available diets for frogs that provide everything your frog needs to grow and be healthy. To provide your frog with all the nutrients it requires, variety is the key!

When to feed?

Many frogs are nocturnal feeders and therefore will only eat at nighttime.

What to feed?

Try to rotate the food items offered around, so that your frog isn't offered the same food item twice in a week.

It is important that food items are smaller than the distance between the frog's eyes, this will ensure that they are capable of ingesting and digesting food items appropriately.

The most important aspect of feeding frogs in captivity is offering variety – a varied diet is much more likely to meet all nutritional requirements than feeding a frog the same thing each time. Most frogs can be offered many different insects (crickets, cockroaches, mealworms, mosquito larvae, earthworms, fruit flies) and larger frogs can be offered very occasionally, frozen and defrosted pinky mice.

In captivity live moving prey is generally more readily accepted than dead prey, however captive animals can be taught to accept food from toys.

Occasionally frozen fish foods can be offered to frogs, however they must be carnivorous fish diets. This will mimic the small fish component of the diet that some larger frogs ingest in the wild. Feeder fish can be offered to larger frogs



Supplementation

All frogs should have their food supplemented with calcium to minimize the occurrence of metabolic bone disease. Simply dusting food with calcium supplementation powder prior to feeding will dramatically reduce the incidence of this disease. Here in the clinic we use Jurralcalcium supplement.

How often?

Do not feed your frog multiple times per day. This can cause your frog to grow too fast and become obese. Young frogs can be fed once a day and most days of the week. Adult frogs only need to be fed every 2-3 days and only a small amount of food each time. Overfeeding can be detrimental to your frog's health.

It is also important to provide a vivarium with enough space for your frog to move around in to encourage exercise.

How to feed your frog?

Frogs should be offered food within their enclosure. Some frogs will accept food inside a smaller, feeding enclosure however most frogs will be too stressed in a new environment to eat. Live food items should be offered to your frog one at a time, and a new one only offered after the previous one has been eaten.

Feeding food items one at a time also allows you to notice sooner if your frog is unwell. Often their appetite will decrease and you may not notice this if you aren't feeding food items one at a time.

Frogs can be taught to accept food from tongs, but many frogs will not accept food this way.

Any food items not eaten should be removed.

What NOT to feed

Raw minced meat/pieces of meat

Frogs in the wild do not chase down cows, sheep, chickens or kangaroos! This is not part of their natural diet. Also, feeding raw meat comes with increased risk of food poisoning and is nutritionally unbalanced.

The same thing every day!

Vary your frog's diet and try not to get stuck feeding them the most convenient food item every time.

