

### Amphibians

#### Frogs, Toads, Newts and Salamanders

Green Tree Frogs (*Hyla versicolor*), Grey Tree Frogs (*Hyla cinerea*),  
Cane Toads (*Bufo marinus*), Green Toads (*Bufo viridis*), Fire-Bellied  
Toads (*Bombina orientalis*), Spadefoot Toads (*Scaphiopus* species),  
Alpine Newts (*Triturus alpestris*), Spanish Newts (*Pleurodeles waltl*), Fire  
Salamanders (*Salamandra salamandra*), Mexican Axolotls  
(*Ambystoma mexicanum*)

**Origins:** Amphibians can be found widespread across the globe, in many different habitats and areas. There are many different species, so these are guidelines and certain individuals may need additional factors not mentioned. They are relatively easy animals to care for, and can be kept in groups, as long as adult size and compatibility is taken into account. This is a very generalised caresheet, so please ask a member of staff for further details about specific species.

**Adult Size and Life Span:** Amphibian size varies at adulthood – from 4cm (1 – 2”) in the green and grey tree frogs and alpine newts to 25cm (10”) in cane toads and axolotls.

**Diet and Feeding:** Terrestrial amphibians such as most frogs, toads and salamanders will eat crickets and mealworms. These should only be fed every other day. When adult, most species will take occasional pinkies or fluffs – ensure these are well defrosted before feeding. Aquatic individuals – newts and axolotls for example, require daphnia, bloodworm, river shrimp (available as fish food) and pinkies when adult. All food must be dusted with a calcium and vitamin D<sub>3</sub> supplement such as Nutrobal to ensure healthy development of bones.

**Vivarium Set Up:** Most species do not require elaborate set ups – most terrestrial frogs and toads need average room temperatures, with perhaps a heat mat to maintain night-time temperatures. They can be housed in secure plastic tubs or

## **Swallow Aquatics Caresheet**

glass fish tanks, with some lighting to increase viewing ability, or a low power UV-B light to ensure healthy growth of the skeleton. Humidity must be high, and so regular spraying is essential, but the tanks should not become water-laden. A damp compost and bark substrate with water bowl, moss, cork bark hides and wooden climbing areas is sufficient. Many tropical houseplants can be used in setups, such as bromeliads, dracenas and spatiphyllum. Aquatic species require well filtered water (in some species it may need to be heated – please ask for more details) and are best housed in glass fish tanks. Rocks and wood can be used as decoration, along with aquatic plants such as Elodea and Cabomba. To maintain the water quality, regular maintenance is required.

**Further Information and Advice:** It is recommended that you read and gain as much information as possible before purchasing your amphibian. Books and reliable websites are good sources, or alternatively ask a member of staff. Phone advice is available 9am-6pm, 7 days a week on 01953 718184.