



Blue Ridge Reef & Pet  
102 WNC Shopping Ctr Dr.  
Black Mountain, NC 28711  
(828) 669 – 0032  
[www.blueridgereef.com](http://www.blueridgereef.com)

# Care of African Dwarf Frogs

## Introduction

Dwarf frogs are an often misunderstood species. They make a fine addition to some freshwater aquariums, but are not a good fit for most tanks. I have seen these for sale at kiosks at the mall, complete with an unfiltered, unheated bowl and container of dry food. This is no way to keep this sensitive creature alive long, without lots of care and even more luck! Frogs aren't scaled like most fishes, and absorb toxins in the water more easily through their skin. Below, I will outline how I keep them with very few losses.

## Tank, Tankmates, and Feeding

I would personally not keep frogs in a tank under ten gallons. It can be done, but there is very little room for error in smaller enclosures. Allow approximately 2-3 gallons per frog. Small fish take up an inch of fish per gallon. Larger fish will eat your frogs! Avoid putting them with active hungry fish or it will be near impossible to get food to them. Frogs have poor eyesight and eat food that is right in front of their noses. Small meaty sinking pellets and frozen meaty foods work well. Do not overfeed!

## Tops

You will want a tight fitting glass or plastic top on your tank. This serves two functions. It keeps the frogs from getting out of your aquarium, and keeps the air above the tank warm. Frogs must come to the surface to breathe; you want the air temp warm like the water. If your room is cold, the air will be too cold with no top, and the frogs can get respiratory disease (similar to pneumonia).

## Filter

Frogs will die from environmental toxins more quickly than most fish, so a filter is important. I am partial to Aqua Clear hang on the back power filters. Regardless of the filter you use, you will need a coarse sponge to put over the filter intake. This sponge will keep your frogs from becoming stuck to the filter and drowning. This sponge will get dirty quickly, be sure and rinse it regularly, so water can flow freely. If the filter seems to have slowed down, you are overdue a rinsing! Change the carbon in your filter monthly.

## Water Temperature, Chemistry

These frogs are fully aquatic. They live their whole lives submerged. Some floating plants (plastic is fine) will give them something to rest on if they need. I find a water temp of 78-80 degrees is ideal. These frogs come from a warm climate, room temperature is not adequate. Soft, neutral water seems best, but they can adapt to a variety of conditions. If keeping them in well water that is hard and alkaline, adjust them to it slowly. Regular partial water changes are a must for any aquarium's health. Skip this for too long on aquatic frogs, and they will likely die when you get around to it! pH goes down in time in most aquariums. The frogs adapt to this when it happens slowly (such as when you are only adding water for evaporation, and not replacing dirty water with clean). When you finally do get around to that overdue water change, the chemistry can be too different from what they were in. 10% weekly is ideal.