

Pacman frog

Ceratophrys cranwelli

🇫🇷 Grenouille Pacman · 🇩🇪 Schmuckhornfrosch



REGULATIONS

Not CITES-listed

OPAn: amphibian standards (humidity/substrate, water quality, stocking). Release prohibited; proof of origin recommended. Professional trade requires competence.



LIFESPAN

10–15 years



ADULT SIZE

10–15 cm



LIFESTYLE

Burrower / Ambush predator



SEXUAL MATURITY

1–2 years



INCUBATION

24–48 hours



LITTER / CLUTCH SIZE

1000–4000 eggs



Habitat & environment



Type — Closed but well-ventilated terrarium



Substrate — Coco fibre/soil (10–15 cm), clean and slightly moist



Equipment

- Mesh lid
- 1–2 dark, stable hideouts
- Shallow water dish (easy access, low rim)
- Artificial plants tolerated



Technical parameters



Hot spot

24–28 °C

Daytime



Humidity

60–80 %

Relative humidity



PH

Eau déchlorée



GH

Changement quotidien



NO2

N/A



NO3

N/A



NH4

N/A



PO4

N/A



Lighting



Photoperiod — Low to moderate, 12/12 cycle



UVB need — Not essential; beneficial when diet is well supplemented



Intensity — UVB 2–5 %



Lamp type — Low-intensity UVB fluorescent (2–5%) + daylight LED for the cycle



Recommended brands — X-Reptile · Reptile Expert · Solar Raptor · Arcadia



Replacement — Every 6 months (UVB depletes before visible light)



UVB does not pass through glass or plexiglass. Place the lamp inside the terrarium, under a protective grille.

Behaviour

Sedentary, territorial and solitary. Spends its time buried or hidden.

 **Social life** — Solitary (territorial)

 **Activity cycle** — Sedentary

Enrichment

- Deep substrate for burrowing
- Shaded areas
- Misting 1-2× per day

Nutrition

Pacman frogs are opportunistic carnivores. They are known for their voracity and their ability to swallow large prey.

Daily base

 **Cricket**

 **Locust**

 **Roach**

 **Diptera Larvae**

Feed in moderation.

 **Mealworm**

Feed in moderation (fat-rich).

 **Superworm**

Feed in moderation.

 **Earthworm**

Very well tolerated, rich in moisture.

★ **Treats (occasional)**

Tong feeding recommended. Do not offer prey wider than the head.

 **Pinky Mouse**

Use very sparingly, do not make routine (obesity risk).

FREQUENCY

- Juveniles (up to ~12 months): 4-5 meals per week
- Adults: every 2-3 days (adjust to body condition)

TO AVOID

 **Dead Prey**

Avoid unless presented with tong stimulation.

 **Mammal Meat**

Too fatty, poorly digested.

 **Chicken**

Too fatty.

Health & prevention

Preventive medicine

Limit handling (stressful). Use rinsed/wet hands or moistened nitrile gloves. May bite if threatened.

WARNING SIGNS

- Breathing difficulty
- Red skin (belly/thighs)
- Incomplete shedding
- Obesity

If any of these symptoms appear, prompt veterinary care is essential.
Contact an exotic-pet vet as soon as possible.

Common conditions

Respiratory issues

SYMPTOMS Breathing difficulties

CAUSE Humidity too low or unsuitable ventilation

PREVENTION Maintain a suitable environment

Parasitism

SYMPTOMS Variable

CAUSE Infested prey

PREVENTION Periodic faecal analyses, healthy prey

Obesity

SYMPTOMS Excessive weight gain

CAUSE Rodents fed too regularly

PREVENTION Favour varied insects, control feeding frequency

Dysecdysis (poor shedding)

SYMPTOMS Remnants of dead skin

CAUSE Inadequate humidity

PREVENTION Correct humidity and access to water dish

Stomatitis and impaction

SYMPTOMS Oral inflammation / obstruction

CAUSE Prey too large or substrate ingestion

PREVENTION Tong feed, size prey appropriately

Dermatoses and red-leg

SYMPTOMS Bacterial dermatitis / septicaemia

CAUSE Poor hygiene, dirty water

PREVENTION Sanitation, daily clean water

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