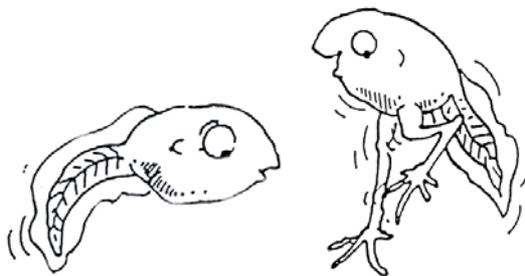


Tadpole Kit step-by-step Set-up Guide!



Congratulations! You are now the proud owner and carer of these local species of frogs. Please read this document carefully to ensure the safe housing and growing of these amazing amphibians!

Step 1. You have picked up your kit/ tadpoles and are now on the way back to the school/ crèche/ pre-school. Please ensure that on this journey they are out of direct sunlight. Tadpoles can cook too, you know!

Step 2. You would have noticed the following in the kit:

- Plastic tank and ventilated lid
- Bag of washed gravel
- Food (frozen endive), depending on availability
- 5-10 tadpoles (the best part!!!)
- 1 litre bottle of water from the ARC
- Information about tadpoles and frogs in the curriculum

Step 3. Place a layer of gravel in the bottom of the tank. This will be the “bottom of the pond” for your tadpoles.

Step 4. Add the *supplied* litre of water. This contains nutrients and food from the tadpoles' tank at the ARC, and will therefore start a food colony in your tadpole kit.

Step 5. *SLOWLY* release the tadpoles from the aquarium bag into the water. Your tank should be approx 1/3 filled with water. Add a few bits (just a small amount) of the frozen endive and sprinkle it on top of the water.

Leave this overnight to settle and for the food to start its culture.

Step 6. Next morning, add 1 litre of tap water or distilled water (if you are worried about your tap water) into the tank (now approx 2/3 full of water). Adding only this amount will stop the tadpoles from getting cold shock in the water.

On this day you should also check the amounts and levels of food in the tank. If it's green then there is probably too much food, so definitely don't add any more!

Step 7. On the third day, fill the tank up completely simply by adding enough water to the tank until it reaches the top level. This will ensure the tadpoles will have enough space and oxygen in the water to live happily and healthily.

Once the set up is complete, what others things do we need to do to keep the tadpoles happy?

That's a good question. You will need to do a water change on the tanks at least once a week. You can do this by simply tipping 1/3 of water out through the holes in the lid. This way you won't lose any tadpoles down the drain!

Please note that you won't need to do a water change for at least 1½ weeks after you set up the tank. This gives the food culture time to settle and if you do a water change so soon, they won't have enough food to survive!

You will also need to feed them. We recommend every 3 days, but this will depend on how well your tadpoles are feeding. If when you feed, the endive doesn't disappear quickly, then it's likely that they aren't eating a lot. So don't add too much! A good indicator is the colour of the water, as mentioned before. If it becomes milky and cloudy, then there is excess food in the tank. If all food is eaten quickly, the water will be quite clear - in this case, stick to the every 3-day rule!

Another rule to abide by is letting everyone know not to spray any chemicals near the tank. Please inform all teachers, janitors, parents and of course the children! Any spraying of chemicals will most certainly kill all of your tadpoles.



Our tadpoles have grown legs!!! What do we do?

This is a great indicator that your tadpoles are extremely healthy and that they are now ready to become frogs! The tadpoles firstly grow their back legs, then their front legs pop out and then finally their tail is slowly absorbed into the body!

You will find that you need to set up another enclosure for the froglets until all of the others have grown their legs to! Just simply use an ice-cream container with some clean gravel and a few leaves for them to hide under.

Depending on how fast the others are growing you may need to feed your little frogs. When the school decided on getting a tadpole kit you would have had to make a decision to either keep the frogs once they metamorphosed or to return them to the Amphibian Research Centre.

If keeping the frogs: Each time a frog changes, put it in the ice cream container, and when they have all changed you will need to set up the tadpole kit as a frog kit!



Setting up a frog kit is very simple: empty the water, put the gravel up one end of the tank so you have a land/water environment; add a couple of plants such as: Mondo Grass or Parlour palms; and then add the new froglets. For food, you will then need to add hatchling size crickets, which you can order from the ARC to feed your frogs. You can do this either by ordering online at www.frogs.org.au/arcade/ or call (03) 9742 3762 to gain an order form. Rules for feeding: Sprinkle crickets out of the tube in the tank every 3 days. And please keep your crickets in the warmest part of the classroom!

If giving the frogs back to the ARC: Follow the same rules as above, keep putting the froglets in another container until they have all metamorphosed. Then return them to the ARC (call first to make an appointment). You can keep the container in which you raised them - this can be used for next year's tadpoles!

Good Luck, we wish all the success with your tadpoles. Please don't hesitate to call us if you have any problems or questions (03) 9742 3764. Please also ensure that you follow all legal rules developed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.