



**Photo Credit: Thomas Brown*

Asian Painted Frog *(Kaloula pulchra)*

Painted Works of Art Come to Life!

The Asian painted frog is a relatively medium sized to large species of frog in the family Microhylidae, or more commonly known as the narrow mouthed frogs or toads. This species is also commonly known as the Chubby Frog, Banded Bullfrog, and several other common names. They are fairly large, pudgy terrestrial frogs that range in color from blackish, to grayish or brown with two wide orangish to brownish orange bands or stipes running from behind each eye towards the groin region. As with most other anurans, Asian painted frogs have voracious appetites, and will consume nearly any smaller vertebrate and invertebrate species they can capture or ambush including insects, arachnids, other invertebrates, and even smaller amphibians. As with other related species, these frogs, when threatened, will inflate their bodies to make themselves appear larger and less palatable, and may also excrete a sticky, distasteful skin secretions to further deter predation. These frogs can also aestivate up to several feet underground during times of drought and other dry conditions, and will coat themselves with several layers of thin, moist skin secretions to retain their hydration and moisture until surface conditions improve again.

Taxonomy

Life: All living, physical, and animate entities

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum/Sub Phylum: Chordata/Vertebrata

Class: Amphibia

Order: Anura

Suborder: Neobatrachia

Family: Microhylidae

Subfamily: Microhylinae

Genus: Kaloula

Species: *Kaloula pulchra**

**Taxonomy subject to change and revision.*

Lifespan and Longevity

If provided the proper care, painted frogs can attain longevity of 5 to 10 years or more.

Distribution and Habitat

The Asian banded, or painted bullfrog is a primarily terrestrial species of frog that has a fairly broad range and distribution over much of southern to southeastern Asia. More specifically, this species, and its related species in the genus may be found in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam Nam. They have also been introduced into the Philippines as well. Within its range, these frogs can occupy a variety of habitats including wetlands and wetland margins, banks of slow moving streams and rivers, and forest edge, or ecotone habitats, in addition to agricultural and suburban, or residential areas. They can occur in nearly any habitat in which suitable seasonal breeding ponds or pools exist nearby.

Origin/History

Kaloula pulchra (Gray, 1831).

Banded bullfrogs would become a species commonly sold in pet stores, although there would be, and still is little to no evidence of captive breeding of these frogs. These frogs have been in the pet trade for many decades since at least the 1970's or 1980's, although most that are available tended to probably be locally or wild-collected imports.

Experience Level Required

Novice/Beginner to Intermediate/Moderate.

Size

Adult Asian painted, or banded frogs range in size from 2 to 3 ½ inches.

Housing and Enclosure

Enclosure System: Primarily Moist-Terrestrial. Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured top or aquarium hood. A 10 to 15 gallon long glass aquarium or terrarium is suitable for these frogs. Provide additional live or artificial foliage, logs, cork bark, or other cage furnishings for added security and aesthetic appeal. Substrates that retain some moisture and humidity should be used such as coconut fibers, sphagnum moss, cypress mulch, or potting soil for more naturalistic enclosures. Painted frogs will burrow into their substrate, which should be provided. Substrate should also be pesticide free. Provide a large, shallow water dish in the enclosure and change at least 2 to 3 times weekly. Spot clean daily. Also mist the enclosure at least once every day to 3 days.

Temperature, Lighting, and Humidity

Painted frogs have simple and undemanding heating and lighting requirements in captivity, and do not require additional UVA/UVB lighting, although providing it in moderated amounts can be greatly beneficial for their health, immune system, and overall wellness. For any supplemental heating that may be needed, use a low wattage incandescent or UVA/UVB bulb, radiant or ceramic heat emitter, or UTH (under tank heating element). Maintain these frogs at ambient temperatures of between 75 and 80 degrees F, but do not allow for temperatures to drop below or rise above this range. A 12 to 14 hour light cycle can also be provided. Painted frogs will also enjoy higher levels of humidity at around 70% or slightly greater. More specific lighting, heating, and humidity product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

Feeding, Diet, and Nutrition

Insectivorous; In the wild, painted frogs are insectivorous to microphagous, and will eat largely ants and termites, although they will consume other insects, arachnids, and other invertebrates they can catch as well. They will also occasionally consume smaller vertebrates as well.

In captivity, feed painted frogs a variety of appropriately sized feeder insects such as crickets, roaches, mealworms, superworms, and waxworms. Feeder insects should be gut-loaded in order to increase their optimal nutritional value. Painted frogs also require additional calcium and vitamin D3 supplementation 1 to 2 times weekly or as otherwise directed for optimal health and development. This is in order to prevent Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD) and other growth and nutritional deficiencies. Their feeding frequency will depend on the age, size, and overall health of your animal. Use care as to not overfeed them, as obesity and other health related issues can become an issue. More specific dietary and supplementary product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

Handling

As with most amphibians, Painted frogs do not enjoy excessive amounts of handling, and can secrete a sticky, potentially irritating skin secretion when handled roughly. All amphibians breathe and respire through their skin, as well as absorb water through this means. It is therefore important to avoid wearing any chemicals or lotions on your hands, which can be potentially harmful or even fatal to amphibians. It is also important to wash or rinse hands thoroughly, and ensure they are adequately moistened before and after handling any amphibians in order to prevent them from drying out.

****Also be sure to practice basic cleanliness and hygiene associated with proper husbandry after touching or handling any animals or animal enclosures to prevent the possibility of contracting salmonellosis or any other zoonotic pathogens****

Contact

Authored by Eric Roscoe. For any additional questions, comments, and/or concerns regarding this animal, group of animals, or this care sheet, please email and contact:

Eric.S.Roscoe@gmail.com

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