

# Amphibian Housing

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The requirements for the successful housing of amphibians are varied as the different species habitats, and whether the amphibians are held as pets, for zoo display, or for conservation breeding programs. General considerations include enclosure size, and provision of water, shelter, temperature, humidity, and for some species UV-B. Below is a list of documents that include housing and range from general texts, to species husbandry guidelines, to peer reviewed studies. For many species private keepers have established housing requirements that result in good health and survival and regular reproduction. Others have proved difficult to keep and have not yet reproduced. The increasing range of novel species in conservation breeding programs, and the numbers to be maintained, will require ongoing development of imaginative and practical housing.

When designing housing the most valuable asset is knowledge that can only be gained through experience. There are many collectors, societies, and discussion groups for amphibians and these may provide the specialised knowledge that is required for the housing of species with individual needs.

Recommended documents:

Husbandry documents and species profiles. Amphibian Ark.

[http://www.amphibianark.org/downloads.htm#Husbandry and ex situ management - general](http://www.amphibianark.org/downloads.htm#Husbandry_and_ex_situ_management_-_general)

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums has an "Amphibian Husbandry Resource Guide". Pramuk JB, Gagliardo R. 2008. Ch 1, General Amphibian Husbandry. Husbandry. Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

[http://www.aza.org/uploadedFiles/Conservation/Commitments\\_and\\_Impacts/Amphibian Conservation/Amphibian Resources/AmphibianHusbandryResourceGuide.pdf](http://www.aza.org/uploadedFiles/Conservation/Commitments_and_Impacts/Amphibian_Conservation/Amphibian_Resources/AmphibianHusbandryResourceGuide.pdf)

The Institute for Laboratory Animal Research volume on the "Use of amphibians in research, laboratory, or classroom settings". [http://dels.nas.edu/ilar\\_n/ilarjournal/48\\_3/html/](http://dels.nas.edu/ilar_n/ilarjournal/48_3/html/)

Browne RK, Zippel K, Odum AR, Herman T. 2007. Physical facilities and associated services. Use of amphibians in research, laboratory, or classroom settings. Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR), Volume 48 (3): 188-202.

The Australasian Zoo Keepers site includes a list of different species and their husbandry needs.

<http://www.australasianzookeeping.org/Husbandry%20Manuals%20-%20Amphibians.htm>

Caudata.org provides a list of husbandry protocols for caudates <http://www.caudata.org/cc/>

Captive reptile and amphibian husbandry- Code of Practice . Environmental Protection Agency, Brisbane, Australia. <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/register/p00061aa.pdf>

Whitaker BR, Wright KN. 2007. Amphibian Medicine and Captive Husbandry. Krieger Publishing Company, Florida U.S.A. 570p.

Walsh PT, Downie JR. 2005. The effects of shelter availability and substrate quality on behaviour and post-metamorphic growth in three species of anurans: Implications for captive breeding. Herpetological Journal. 15(4): 245-255.