

# Fire-bellied Toad

*Bombina orientalis*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

These colorful toads are small with red, orange, or yellow undersides. The fire-bellied toad exposes its colorful underside and sometimes excretes toxins from its skin to scare off predators. Fire-bellied toads spend most of their time in the water and they make a very unique sound.



### Is a fire-bellied toad the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

1. I can accommodate a tank requiring an electrical heat source and water filtration.
2. I want a pet that doesn't need to be cuddled or touched.
3. I feel comfortable feeding live food to a toad.
4. I can commit to providing proper care for this toad.
5. A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

If you answered "Yes" to these statements, a fire-bellied toad may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a fire-bellied toad and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

**Average Size** 2 to 3 inches long

**Life Span** Up to 5 years with proper care

**Diet** Provide a variety of live insects, including small, gut-loaded (recently fed) crickets and worms  
Dust the insects daily with a pure calcium supplement and once or twice weekly with a vitamin/mineral supplement.

**Feeding** Feed fire-bellied toads every other day, placing food on the land area of the tank; provide only as much food as they can eat in one feeding

**Housing** Size – Appropriate size and shape habitat for an adult toad to accommodate normal behaviors and exercise

Substrate – Mulch-type commercial material; unbleached paper towels, soil, dampened sphagnum moss, and bark; avoid gravel and artificial turf (too harsh for skin)

Habitat – For terrarium, provide a water bowl to submerge in if needed; add filtered, chlorine-free water to soil at one side only, so one side is moist (not wet) and the other is dry, allowing animal to choose; add pieces of bark for hiding places; for aqua- terrarium, use water filter but ensure areas of still water

Temperature – Should range from 65° F. to 82° F.

Water – Use dechlorinated water; a canister filter is needed to keep the habitat clean and prevent disease

Do not house different species of reptiles together

### Recommended Supplies

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat with secure lid    | <input type="checkbox"/> Canister filter                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basking rock or log        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish net or scoop                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humidity gauge             | <input type="checkbox"/> Incandescent light or ceramic heater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate/commercial mulch | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about toads           | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin/mineral supplement           |

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### Normal Behavior and Interaction

Fire-bellied toads spend most of their time in the water; Males call when they are ready to breed; the call is quite unusual, sounding like a dog's bark; They recognize routine; feed them at the same time every day and you'll find them waiting; One of the few communal toads, they live together in the wild

### Habitat Maintenance

Remove left over food and feces daily to keep the water clean and clear

Use an appropriate sized, small-mesh, soft net to move or block the toad while doing habitat maintenance; avoid handling; if you handle them be sure to wear latex gloves; residue or oil on your skin can harm amphibians

Thoroughly clean the tank at least once week: set toads aside in a secure habitat; scrub the tank and furnishings with a 3% bleach solution; rinse thoroughly with water, removing all smell of bleach; add clean, dechlorinated water; ensure temperature range is from 75° F. to 85°F before returning toads to the tank

### Grooming and Hygiene

Don't handle unless necessary; wear latex gloves; do not allow toad's skin toxins into contact with eyes, mouth, or open wounds

Always wear latex gloves if you must handle your toad and wash your hands after handling the habitat contents to help prevent *Salmonella* and other infectious diseases

### Signs of a Healthy Animal

- Active and alert
- Healthy skin
- Clear eyes
- Eats regularly
- Clear nose and vent
- Hopping and swimming

### Common Health Issues

Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Chemical Intoxication	Caused by exposure to soap, detergent, pesticides, etc.	May be lethal; be sure to protect your frog from exposure.
Intestinal Obstruction	Caused by swallowing gravel or by eating too many hard-shelled insects.	Consult with an exotic animal veterinarian; surgery may be required.
Nutritional Deficiencies	Weak hind legs, lethargy, lighter or darker skin color.	Ensure a varied diet; use vitamin and mineral supplements. Consult with an exotic animal veterinarian.
Skin Problems	Abrasions, bacterial and fungal infections.	Consult with an exotic animal veterinarian for treatment.

### Red Flags

- Lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Bloated abdomen
- Skin lesions
- Distressed breathing
- Weak leg movements

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.

### Sources

*Frogs and Toads* by Steve Grenard and Terry Gamppen  
*Frogs and Toads as New Pets* by John Coborn

**Note:** The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.