

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**  
**DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**

SOP#: 802.5

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**TITLE:** **Frog Care and Feeding**  
**SCOPE:** Animal Care Personnel  
**RESPONSIBILITY:** Facility Manager and Technical Staff  
**PURPOSE:** To Outline the Proper Procedures for the Care and Feeding of Frogs of the Genus Rana (i.e., Grass, Leopard, and Bullfrogs)

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**I. PROCEDURES**

- g. Water temperature should be maintained between 65-75 °F.
- h. Tank water is changed three times a week after feeding.
- i. Frogs remain inside the tank during the drain, clean, and refill procedure. Tanks are to be cleaned one at a time. Open drain valve located under the tank to allow all the water to drain out. Never use any soap product! Fill tank with filtered water to approximately just below platform level using the filtered water supply.
- j. Alternatively, when numbers permit, frogs can be moved from one tank to another tank to allow thorough tank cleaning. The dirty tank can then be rinsed and wiped down.
- k. Room light times: 14 hours light/10 hours dark cycle

### 3. Feeding

- a. Adult frogs can survive extended periods (3-4 weeks) without feeding if their quarters are kept clean.
- b. Frogs should be fed three times a week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- c. Movement triggers feeding in adult frogs, therefore live food is recommended (e.g., live crickets).
- d. Four to six crickets per frog, depending on frog size, are placed in the frog tank. Any crickets still unconsumed at the next water change (i.e., the following day) will be removed from the tank.
- e. Record days that frogs are fed on the Room Status Sheet .
- f. Since crickets are the frogs' sole source of nutrition, they are fed a commercially available cricket diet (e.g., Total Cricket Bites ) in order to meet the frogs' dietary requirements.

### 4. Water analysis of the frog holding tanks located at ISA are conducted weekly to verify water quality and are performed just prior to the scheduled water change.

- a. Nitrite, ammonia, and chlorine concentrations are determined by commercially available colorimetric tests following the manufacturer's directions.
- b. Nitrite and ammonia levels should be less than 0.2 mg/l. Elevated levels are indicators that water should be changed more frequently.
- c. Chlorine level should be less than 0.4 mg/l.
- d. Water pH should be 6.8 to 7.6 and is determined using a pH test strip.
- e. The results of all water quality tests are recorded on the Room Status Sheet.
- f. Manufacturer's product inserts and directions for all water quality tests and equipment are kept the Room Log Book .

### 5. Water filtration system filters are changed biannually by contractor, Purification Technologies.

**Approved:**

**Date:**