

RAISING PAC-MAN FROGS: From Tadpole to Titan

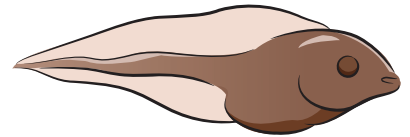
Illustrations by Thomas Kimball



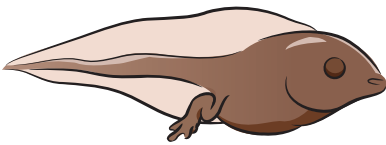
After an aestivation period of about four to 12 weeks, feed heavily for three to four weeks. Then place two males and one female in a rain chamber for breeding. Run the rain for 12 hours straight. By the time the rain stops, one of the males should be firmly clasped to the female's back. >



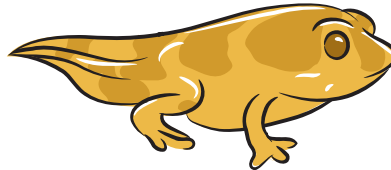
One female can produce several thousand eggs, which hatch within 24 to 48 hours. As the eggs hatch, keep an eye out for infertile eggs, which become evident when they start to break down, and remove them from the water. Otherwise they foul the water quality. >



The moment tadpoles are free-swimming, they feed readily on bloodworms. Keep in mind that tadpoles must be fed continuously, and that they produce a lot of waste. Water quality will suffer unless you perform daily partial water changes. >



A tadpole's development rate depends upon temperature and food supply. Once tadpoles develop rear legs, provide them with a place to haul out of the water when they are ready. >



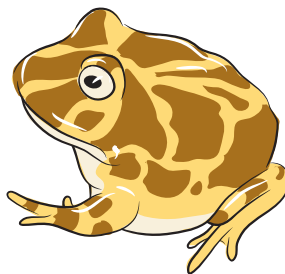
Pac-Man tadpoles metamorphose into froglets after 21 to 30 days, but in colder temperatures it can take as long as a few months for tadpoles to finish the transformation. >



Continue to feed bloodworms and separate tadpoles so they are housed with only those of the same size. >



At around 1 inch in length, a froglet looks like a small version of an adult Pac-Man frog. >



Juveniles should be housed alone. They have a tendency to eat smaller siblings. Feed them three times a week. You can offer them crickets and other insects, but make sure prey items are no larger than a frog's head. >



Adult Pac-Man frogs measure 4 to 7 inches long. One or two Pac-Man frogs may be housed in a 15- to 20-gallon tank. These frogs eat almost anything they can stuff into their mouths, including other frogs. The size difference between two frogs kept together should be minimal. Even then the more aggressive of the two could eat the other one. Feed adults no more than once a week, but once every two weeks is better. Appropriate food items include crickets, earthworms, cockroaches, locusts and pinky mice.