

## CARESHEET: Dart frogs

Common Name :- Dart Frogs

Classification/Latin name :- Dendrobates sp.

Size :- 1-3inches

Distribution :- South America

### Description and sexing:-

A range of brightly coloured generally terrestrial frogs, active through the day and not toxic provided they are captive bred.

### Enclosure size:-

A vivarium at least 18"x18"x18" / 45cmx45cmx45cm will generally be sufficient for a group of up to three. This depends on species and planting please ask if you need more specific information.

### Heating and temperature:-

Background heating is best provided by a heat mat applied to one wall, with a UV tube providing lighting to be turned off at night. Daytime temperature in the region of 78 degrees F, with a night time drop to no lower than 65 degrees F.

### Lighting and day length:-

A day night cycle is necessary with a day length of approximately twelve hours. Use a uv tube as these wont give out too much heat and have been proven to be beneficial to these frogs.

### Humidity:-

Dart frogs need a high humidity and daily spraying is essential this is also required for the plants to be maintained.

### Substrate and decoration:-

A top layer of coir fibre is a good substrate with a layer of hydrolyca underneath to provide drainage.

#### Feeding and vitamins:-

Small invertebrates ie; black or brown fruit flies and micro crickets are ideal as a staple diet. All food should be lightly dusted with a calcium based vitamin powder like Repton.

#### Possible problems:-

Captive bred dart frogs are quite tough as long as they are kept humid and fed on the correct size food items regularly. Can be very long lived, to over 20 years.

#### Handling:-

Dart frogs should not be handled, If they need moving they should be encouraged into a tub, as the risk of injuring them is too high.

#### General husbandry:-

These frogs definitely do best in a naturalistic well planted set up with plenty of hiding areas. Water bowls should only be shallow as they are not good swimmers and can drown if the bowl is too deep. A fairly constant supply of small food items are required. It is a good idea to introduce springtails and/or tropical woodlice into the tank these will help keep the tank clean as well as another source of food for the frogs.