

# Common Name: Argentine Horned Frog

Scientific Name: *Ceratophrys ornata*



IUCN Red list Status: Near Threatened

AZA Conservation Program:

**Class:** Amphibia

**Order:** Anura

**Family:** Ceratophryidae

**Genus:** *Ceratophrys*

**Habitat:** These frogs are native to Uruguay, Brazil, and Argentina; where they are found in roadside ditches and grasslands that are near temporary bodies of water.

**Threats in the Wild:** The population of Argentine horned frogs is declining in the wild due to habitat loss, collection for the exotic pet trade, and persecution by humans.

**Physical Characteristics:** These amphibians have rounded, squat bodies with jaws that are as wide as their head. They have relatively short legs and are not strong jumpers unlike other frog species. Small crests above their eyes that resemble horns are what give this frog their name. Males are smaller than females and usually grow to be about 4.5 inches in length, where the females can grow to around 6.5 inches in length. The backs and limbs of these frogs are usually colored in a combination of reds, yellows, browns, and greens, while their undersides are generally yellow to white in color.

**Reproduction:** Breeding season occurs during the rainy season in the late spring. Like all amphibians, these frogs need pools of water to lay their eggs in. Argentine horned frogs only have temporary pools to work with, so their young develop quickly and begin to develop their lungs as early as three days old.

**Longevity:** About 6 years.

**Diet:** The Argentine horned frog is quite the carnivore and will eat anything it can fit in its proportionally large mouth. This includes things from invertebrates, to small mammals and birds, and sometimes even other frogs.



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**Miscellaneous:** Argentine horned frogs are diurnal and spend most of their day waiting in ambush. Even though they have short legs, they are very capable of making powerful forward lunges at nearby prey.

Its large gaping mouth has given this frog the nickname of “Pacman Frog”>

Tadpoles are capable of making distress calls by forcing air out of their developing lungs. This is notable, considering that this is the first and only known example of vertebrate larvae being able to make such calls.

## Sources:

<https://www.honolulu zoo.org/animals/ornate-horned-frog/>



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Fact Sheet – Amphibia – Argentine Horned Frog  
Last Updated: January 2021

