

TERRARIUM RECIPE CARD

Project
Level: Easy

Materials

- Container: 10 Gallon glass aquarium for one salamander, larger for more salamanders
- Mesh Screen lid
- Clay balls or gravel
- Eco Earth
- Medium Resin Drinking Dish
- Cork bark to act as a cave
- Sphagnum moss
- RO Water (Reverse Osmosis Water) or Water conditioner to treat tap water
- Aquarium Thermometer and Hygrometer
- Cricket or feed keeper
- Aluminum foil or plastic wrap
- Clean spray bottle used only for water
- Heat pad (if room reaches cold temperatures)
- One small spade foot or woodhouse toad

Food

- Crickets
- Mealworms
- Wax worms
- And other feeder insects
- Calcium powder
- See Cricket Keeper page for insect care instructions

Recommended Temperature and

Humidity: Spade foot toads are desert toads. They like temperatures between 70-85° F (21-29° C). They are only active during rains, to keep toad active keep humidity at a high level.



TOAD HABITAT

Set up Rinse clay balls or gravel in a bucket or tub until water runs clear. Layer the clay balls into the bottom of the tank, taking up the first 5 cm so that the tank has a drainage area. Next layer about 6 cm of moistened Eco Earth. Do not over saturate the Eco Earth, it should be moist but not muddy. Moisten sphagnum moss and arrange over exposed Eco Earth area. The moss will help the environment to keep moist and help the soil retain water. Place a piece of cork bark to act as a cave for the toad. Put on latex gloves before placing the toad into the environmental as oils from your skin can harm toad. Cover terrarium with the mesh lid so that animals will not escape. If air in the surrounding environment is arid (absent of humidity) cover half of the mesh lid with aluminum foil or plastic wrap to retain moisture. If raising more than one toad, make sure that they are relatively the same size, as toads and frogs are cannibalistic and will eat anything smaller than they are that will fit into their mouths, including their own young.

Maintenance: Keep tank moist at all times by keeping it sprayed with RO water at least once a day. Soil should be moist but not muddy. Toads are creatures that spend their time in moist soil or in puddles of water, they are different from frogs in that they do not need to spend a portion of their time swimming in water, therefore much like tiger salamanders, they need a dish with clean RO water to wet themselves down in. This water should be changed out about every other day to avoid bacteria and algae growth. To clean habitat: Change out Eco Earth soil once each semester, rinse clay balls or gravel to use again as drainage layer. Do not use detergent or chemicals to clean water dish. Make sure tank is cleaned only with water (or scrubbed with salt if dirty.) Do not use detergent on tank as soap residue will harm the toad.

Care: This habitat is for observation purposes. Students should not handle the toad. Toads are hunters. Feed 2-3 live crickets twice a week. Change water before feeding. Dust insects with calcium powder every two weeks for healthy bones. The toad may burrow during the day but may become active at feeding time. They can be easily trained to come up to the tank glass during feedings. Do not tap glass during observations. Amphibians need water and land to survive. The toad will burrow to stay moist especially if the tank is too dry or their water dish is empty and they cannot wade in the water. This is a desert toad, make sure to place aquarium away from drafts and air conditioner vents.