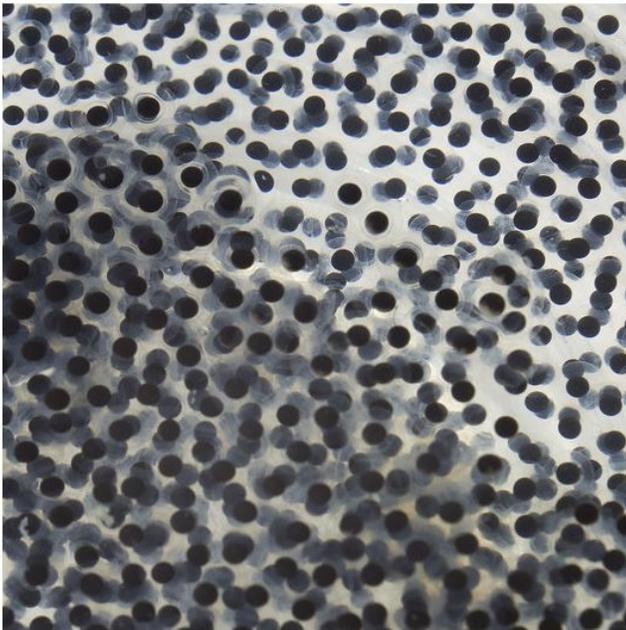


## Day 1



Leave the frog eggs in the sealed shipping bag until tadpoles emerge to protect the frog eggs from infection or contamination. The bag is filled with oxygen and has enough water for the eggs to develop. Keep the bag at temperatures of 64-68° F or room temperature is fine. Do not put it in direct sunlight, under a heating or cooling vent (temperatures of 75 – 78° F is too warm). Healthy eggs are dark in color. Any eggs that remain light after a few days may be dead or unfertilized. Examples of healthy eggs below:

**Fun Fact:** The lighter part of the egg is the yolk. The darker part, sometimes called the “animal pole,” is the developing embryo.



## Days 2 - 3



**Fun Fact:** Tadpoles do not need to be fed until mouth parts develop—prior to this stage they feed on a built-in food source consisting of the yolk sac. Once mouth parts are present, most species will need to be fed daily on Frog and Tadpole food included in kit (or flake fish food). A few small pinches per tadpole should be adequate.

## Days 4 -10 – Meet Your Tadpoles!



**Having only a few eggs hatch is normal!** Mortality of native frog eggs is often extremely high, and the eggs may not have been fully fertilized. Even with excellent care, we expect less than a 50% hatch rate (be sure to leave the eggs in the sealed shipping bag to optimize your chances of success).

**If Your Tadpoles Are Not Active –** Do not stress yet! They are probably still maturing. Newly hatched tadpoles often curve into a comma shape as a normal stage in their development. Be patient and you will soon have active tadpoles. Wait until the tadpoles are freely swimming before you transfer them out of the bag; otherwise, they are too young and may not survive the disturbance.

**Moving the Tadpoles to the Habitat** - When the tadpoles become active you transfer them to a habitat:

- We recommend setting up the habitat 24-hours in advance so water can reach room temperature.
- Use the 3-gallon plastic tank found in kit. Fill habitat with water about 2.5 gallons.
- If you use tap water, you must treat it with the chemical water conditioner in the kit to remove chlorine and chloramines. If you use bottled spring water, check the label to make sure it contains no additives.
- Now it's time to acclimate your tadpoles!

### **To Acclimatize the Tadpoles:**

1. You will need a second empty container (You can use any of the spare plastic containers in your kit for this part.)
2. Open the bag and gently pour its contents into the empty container.
3. Use a stick or spoon to clear and discard the unhatched eggs and the clear, jellylike mass left over from the hatched eggs.
4. Remove about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the shipping water and replace it with water from the habitat.
5. Wait 15 minutes, then repeat step 4.
6. After another 15 minutes, gently pour the tadpoles and water into the habitat. The tadpoles are now acclimated to their new environment.

## After A Few Weeks



### After 6–9 weeks

- Legs will appear and the tadpoles will require **sloping rocks or a slanted shelf so that they can climb partially out of the water** as their lungs are developing. The aquarium should remain covered at this time, since the animals will soon begin to jump.

## Fully Developed Frogs



### After 10-12 weeks

- Tadpoles will become froglets, and shortly after they will morph into fully developed frogs.

Pictures by Joe Meyers ( <https://www.facebook.com/n.joe.myers> )

**SAFETY TIP – Always wash your hands after touching an amphibian or any part of an amphibian's habitat.**