



FROGWATCH

Tadpole Kits for Schools Program

PROCEDURES FOR THE LOAN OF A TADPOLE KIT TO SCHOOLS THROUGH THE GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP (GCG)

Caring for tadpoles and watching them turn into frogs (metamorphose) is a fascinating and rewarding activity for young and old alike. It is also becoming more useful for scientific reasons, because much is still not known about frogs and the reasons for their dramatic population decline worldwide. **However, removing and displacing tadpoles and frogs from the wild without a specific license is illegal in the ACT.** To overcome this dilemma the FROGWATCH ACT and Region program offers the loan of a complete Tadpole Kit so students can observe the amazing process of tadpoles going through metamorphoses. The Tadpole Kits are kindly funded by the ACT Herpetological Association and contain tadpoles, food, plants, substrate, water purifier and care instructions. Participating ACT schools are required to pay (per kit) a **\$50 loan fee** towards the administration costs and a **\$50 deposit**, which will be returned after the complete return of the Kit in accordance with these procedures.

Getting a Tadpole Kit

NOTE: By accepting a tadpole kit you agree to follow these procedures:

1. Schools/Teachers must pay the complete loan fee (\$100 per kit) to at the time of booking (bank account details: **Westpac, Name: Ginninderra Catchment Group, BSB: 032 778, Account Number: 424 126**)
2. Please use TAD – teacher’s initials- name of school as your reference;
3. Participants then must fill in the online booking sheet, including their bank account details (for the return of the deposit);
4. Kits are generally allocated on a first-come first-served basis. However, the FROGWATCH Coordinator reserves the right to refuse the supply of a kit based on past experience with non-return of kits or components thereof, or any problems encountered with a previous loan.
5. There is no limit to the number of kits that a school can book.
6. Cheques can be taken to the next Westpac branch and be deposited into our account by you.

Your booking is only complete if you have paid the deposit

AND

filled out the online booking form.



Picking up your Tadpole Kit

Tadpole kits **must** be picked up at the specified dates during the specified time.

North side: First Monday of Term 4, 14:00- 17:00 hrs at the GCG office in the Kippax Health Centre (behind Kippax shops) in [Kippax Place, Holt](#).

South side: First Tuesday of Term 4, 14:00- 17:00 hrs at Namadgi School, O'Halloran Circuit, Kambah.

Each tadpole kit contains:

- Ziploc bag with tadpoles and 1L of starter water
- Tadpole Care Instruction booklet
- Tadpole food (bag of Spirulina)
- 1 bottle with water purifier
- 1 mesh/cotton bag with gravel
- 1 aquatic plant
- 1 bucket
- 1 medium sized plastic tank with lid
- 1 non-scratch sponge

The person collecting the kit(s) will be required to sign a document stating that the tadpole kit was complete and in good working order.

The person signing the document is held responsible for the welfare of the animals and the timely return of the animals and the cleaned equipment.

Looking after the Tadpoles and the Equipment

All care instructions are outlined in the Tadpole Kit Care Instruction booklet. Participants of the program need to adhere to these instructions.

Under no circumstances are tadpoles/frogs or froglets to be released (into the wild/sewer). This is illegal in the ACT and doing so may attract hefty fines. As part of our licence requirements, the FROGWATCH Coordinator is to report any release of frogspawn, tadpoles or frogs to the ACT Licensing Authorities.

Once metamorphosis has occurred, froglets must be returned to the office ASAP. Froglets have different habitat and dietarian requirements to tadpoles and may drown or starve if their new needs are not met.



Returning the Tadpole Kit

All equipment, including tadpoles that may have not completed metamorphosis and newly hatched froglets must be returned on the specified date during the specified time.

North side: Last Monday of Term 4, 14:00 - 17:00hrs at the GCG office in the Kippax Health Centre (behind Kippax shops) in Kippax Place, Holt.

South side: Last Tuesday of Term 4, 14:00- 17:00 hrs at Namadgi School, O'Halloran Circuit, Kambah.

Returning Tadpole Kit(s) after these dates means that you will forfeit your deposit(s).

All tadpole kit equipment must be returned clean (see guide), sorted and complete at the end of the program. Failure to do so means that you will forfeit your deposit(s).

The person returning the kit(s) clean and complete will receive a end-of-loan receipt and the deposit(s) will be transferred back into the nominated account (online booking sheet) within 30 working days.

Cleaning the Tadpole Kit

All tadpole kit equipment must be cleaned (see guide below) and sorted before returning it to the Ginninderra Catchment Group Office.

The cleaning needs to be done on the day of returning the kit.

- **Tadpoles:** Put some tank water into the bucket and add tadpoles.
- **Froglets:** Put a few leaves into a clean Chinese food container or ice cream container and add froglets. Punch a few air holes into the lid of container.
- Add aquatic plant either to the froglets or to the tadpole set up.
- Carefully remove the gravel from the tank. And place all gravel in mesh/cotton bag
- Discard rest of tank water through a strainer, ensuring that all tadpoles have been caught.
- Put the gravel bag under running hot water while rubbing the gravel to clean from as much debris and algae as possible. Keep going until water runs clear.
- Put wet gravel bag into the sun to start the drying out process.
- Clean out tank and gently scrub the sides and floor of tank with non-scratch sponge provided until clear. Rinse and dry.

DO NOT USE ANY CHEMICALS OR SOAP TO CLEAN THE TANKS.

- Place Tadpole Kit Care Instruction Booklet, Tadpole food (bag of Spirulina), 1 bottle with water purifier, 1 mesh/cotton bag with gravel, the non-scratch sponge and the tank lid into the tank. Add froglets in container to the equipment. Place bucket with aquatic plant and tadpoles next to the tank.



Checklist – end of loan

- Tadpoles in bucket
- Froglets in container with small holes in lid
- Aquatic plant in container/bucket
- Strained tank water through mesh before discarding
- Gravel in mesh bag
- Gravel cleaned under hot water till run-off is clear
- Started drying of mesh bag
- Tank cleaned out and gently scrubbed with non-scratch sponge
- Tank rinsed and dried
- Tadpole Care Instruction Booklet stowed in tank
- Tadpole food (bag of Spirulina) stowed in tank
- Bottle with water purifier stowed in tank
- Mesh bag with gravel stowed in tank
- Non-scratch sponge stowed in tank
- Lid stowed in tank
- Container with froglets (and aquatic plant) stowed in tank
- Bucket with tadpoles (and aquatic plant) next to tank
- Drop off froglets ASAP after hatching- feed with baby crickets in the meantime.
- Return last Monday of Term 4 (North side) or last Tuesday of Term 4 (South side), between 14:00 and 17:00 hrs.

