



FROGWATCH Tadpole Kits for Schools Program

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE LOAN OF A TADPOLE KIT THROUGH THE GINNINDERRA CATCHMENT GROUP

THIS PROGRAM IS KINDLY FUNDED BY ICON
WATER



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 Icon Water and contain tadpoles, food, plants, substrate, water purifier and care instructions. Participating ACT schools are no longer required to pay a loan fee **thanks to funding from Icon Water**, however, a **\$50 deposit per kit** is required. This deposit is refunded after the return of the Tadpole Kit in accordance with these procedures.

NOTE: By requesting a tadpole kit you agree to the following terms and conditions:



1. Getting a Tadpole Kit

- 1.1. Participants must fill in the online request sheet, including the bank account details of the partaking school/organisation.
- 1.2. If bank account details are not provided on the request sheet you agree to forfeit your deposit at the end of the program.
- 1.3. Schools/Teachers will receive an invoice for the deposit (\$50/kit) and must pay the stated amount within 5 working days using the provided reference number
- 1.4. Amount is paid to Ginninderra Catchment Group, BSB: 032 778, Account Number: 424 126, Westpac).
- 1.5. Kits are allocated on a first-paid 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.
- 1.6. There is no limit to the number of kits that a school can book.
- 1.7. Cheques can be taken to the next Westpac branch and be deposited into our account by you. We can no longer accept cheques.

Your booking is only complete if you have filled out the online request form and paid the deposit

2. Picking up your Tadpole Kit

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

North side: First Monday of Term 4, 15:00- 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, 15:00- 17:00 hrs at the Southern ACT Catchment Group, Erindale Business Park, [2 Lansell Circuit, Building C](#), Wanniasa, between 1500-1700, on Tues 15 October 2019.

- 2.2. Each tadpole kit contains:

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



- 2.3. 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.
- 2.4. 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.

3. Transporting your tadpoles

- 3.1. Keep tadpoles out of direct sunlight as they can easily overheat and die. If you are unable to set up the tank within a few hours of collection you need to open the ziplock bag to allow oxygen flow.

4. Setting Up Your Tadpole Home

Day One

- 4.1. Place tank in spot where it will receive sunlight for part of the day.
- 4.2. SLOWLY release the 'Starter Water' and the tadpoles into the tank. Your tank should be approximately 1/3 filled with water. Add the aquatic plants provided, as they will help with oxygenating the water and providing a place to hide (and some snacks if algae grows on the plants). As the plants slowly die, they will also provide extra food for your tadpoles.
- 4.3. Dry the ziplock bag as you will need it to protect the instruction booklet and food bag when returning the equipment at the end of the program.
- 4.4. At the same time, fill the bucket provided with 2L of tap water, add one drop of water conditioner, and let it stand for at least 24 hours, preferably in direct sunlight. Tap water is harmful to frogs and tadpoles. Using the water conditioner and letting the water stand uncovered overnight will allow the chlorine to evaporate, excessive amounts of oxygen to dissipate and the temperature to adjust to room temperature. Alternatively use tank water.

Day Two

- 4.5. SLOWLY add the water from the bucket to the tank, 250ml at the time. This will help the tadpoles to adjust to a change in temperature without getting a cold shock and will minimize disturbance to the set up. Sprinkle a small amount of the food provided on top of the water.
- 4.6. Do a tadpole head count with your students and enter your findings into the weekly tadpole count sheet.



5. Looking after the Tadpoles and the Equipment

- 5.1. All care instructions are outlined in the Tadpole Kit Care Instruction booklet. Participants of the program need to adhere to these instructions.
- 5.2. **Under no circumstances are tadpoles/frogs or froglets to be released** into the wild or 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.
- 5.3. A **weekly tadpole count needs to be documented** on the provided count sheet throughout the program. This will provide much needed data on the survival and transformation rate of tadpoles and froglets in schools.
- 5.4. 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.

6. Returning the Tadpole Kit

- 6.1. 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, 15:00- 17:00 hrs at the Southern ACT Catchment Group, Erindale Business Park, 2 Lansell Circuit, Building C, Wanniasa, between 1500-1700, on Tues 15 October 2019.

- 6.2. **Please note:** returning Tadpole Kit(s) after these dates, incomplete, broken or unclean (see guide) means that you will forfeit your deposit(s).
- 6.3. The person returning the kit(s) clean and complete will receive an end-of-loan receipt and the deposit(s) will be transferred back into the nominated account within 30 working days.
- 6.4. The following fees incur for incomplete, dirty, damaged or late equipment:

\$5	Bucket	\$15	Gravel
\$5	Sponge	\$25	Dirty tank
\$5	Food bag	\$30	Instruction booklet
\$10	Mesh bag	\$50	Broken tank/missing lid
\$10	Water treatment bottle	\$50	Late fee (per tank)



7. Cleaning the Tadpole Kit

- 7.1. All tadpole kit equipment must be cleaned (see guide below) and sorted before returning it.
- 7.2. The cleaning needs to be done on the day of returning the kit.
- 7.3. How to clean the kit:
 - **Tadpoles:** Put some tank water into the bucket and add tadpoles.
 - **Froglets:** Put a few leaves into a clean food container or ice cream container and add froglets. Punch a few small air holes into the lid of container.
 - Add aquatic plant either to the froglets or to the tadpole set up.
 - Carefully move the gravel into the 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 gently 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.
 - Place bottle with water purifier, 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.
 - Keep Tadpole Kit Care Instruction Booklet and tadpole food (bag of Spirulina) separate, protect with dry ziplock bag.

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



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, gently scrubbed with non-scratch sponge
- Tank rinsed and dried
- Tadpole Care Instruction Booklet stowed in large ziplock bag to avoid water damage
- Tadpole food (bag of Spirulina) stowed with instruction booklet to avoid water damage
- 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 15:00 and 17:00 hrs.

