



# FROGWATCH Tadpole Kits for Schools Program

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

THIS PROGRAM IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED 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 and Icon Water have joined forces. The subsidized loan of a complete Tadpole Kit will enable students to observe the amazing process of tadpoles going through metamorphoses in their classrooms, while keeping costs at a minimum. **Thanks to funding from Icon Water** Tadpole Kits are available for a **much-reduced loan fee of \$50 per kit**, paired with a **\$50 deposit**. The deposit is fully refunded at the end of the program, once all equipment and animals have been returned 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 loan fee (\$50/kit) and deposit (\$50/kit) and must pay the stated amount within 5-7 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 until booked out. However, the FROGWATCH Coordinator reserves the right to refuse the supply of a kit based on problems with a previous loan.
- 1.6. Schools can request a maximum of 4 kits for the levels Preschool to Year12.
- 1.7. We cannot accept payment that are late or without reference number.
- 1.8. Cheques can be taken to the next Westpac branch and be deposited into our account by you. We cannot accept cheques.

**Your booking is confirmed when we receive your payment.**

## 2. Picking up your Tadpole Kit

---

- 2.1. Tadpole kits **must** be picked up on the first Monday of Term 4, between 8am and 5pm.
- 2.2. Dispatch is from the **GCG office at The Flynn Community Hub, 21 Bingle Street, Flynn, ACT.**
- 2.3. Each tadpole kit contains:
  - Tadpole Care Instruction booklet
  - Zip lock bag
  - Tadpole food (bag of Spirulina)
  - 1 bottle with water purifier
  - 1 mesh/cotton bag with gravel
  - Aquatic plants
  - 1 bucket with tadpoles and 1L of starter water. With lid.
  - 1 medium sized plastic tank with lid
  - 1 non-scratch sponge
- 2.4. The person collecting the kit(s) will be required to check that the tadpole kit is complete and in good working order, and has to sign the pickup form.
- 2.5. 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. Morning sun is best.
- 4.2. Rinse the mesh bag containing the gravel under hot water, to remove dust and dirt. Move gravel in bag until the water runs clear.
- 4.3. Add gravel to your tank.
- 4.4. SLOWLY release the 'Starter Water' with your 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, offer a place to hide and some snacks as algae grow on the plants. As the plants slowly die, they will also provide extra food for your tadpoles.
- 4.5. Dry the Ziplock bag as you will need it to protect the instruction booklet, paperwork, water purifier and food bag when returning the equipment at the end of the program.
- 4.6. At the same time, prepare some top up water for the tadpole tank. Tap water is harmful to frogs and tadpoles. You can use rainwater from a tank if available. But if this is not the case you can treat tap water to make it tadpole - friendly. The easiest way to do this is to leave a bucket of tap water uncovered for a few hours, preferably in the sun. Alternatively, fill the bucket with tap water, add one drop of water conditioner per 3L, and let it stand for at least 10 minutes. Using the water conditioner and letting the water stand uncovered will allow the chlorine to evaporate, excessive amounts of oxygen to dissipate and the temperature to adjust to room temperature.

#### **Day Two**

- 4.7. 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 1-2 disks of the tadpole food provided into the water.
- 4.8. Do a tadpole head count with your students and enter your findings into the weekly tadpole count sheet – at the end of the Tadpole diary.



## 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 and handed in with the rest of the equipment at the end of 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. 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 and newly hatched froglets must be returned on the last Monday of Term 4 (public school term), between 8am and 5pm.
- 6.2. The return location is **GCG office at The Flynn Community Hub, 21 Bingle Street, Flynn.**
- 6.3. **Please note:** returning incomplete, broken or dirty (see guide) Tadpole Kit(s), as well as returning them after the time/date stated in 6.1 will incur fees as stated in 6.5.
- 6.4. 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.
- 6.5. The following fees incur for incomplete, dirty, damaged or late equipment:

\$10	Bucket and/or lid	\$15	Gravel
\$10	Sponge	\$20	Instruction booklet
\$10	Food bag	\$25	Dirty tank
\$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/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.
  - Discard rest of tank water through a strainer, ensuring that all tadpoles have been caught.
  - Carefully move the gravel into the mesh/cotton bag.
  - Rinse the gravel bag under running hot water while gently rubbing the gravel to clean away 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 clean. Rinse and dry.
  - Place mesh/cotton bag with gravel, non-scratch sponge and tank lid into the tank. Add froglets in container to the equipment. Place bucket with aquatic plant and tadpoles next to the tank.
  - Put Instruction Booklet, education materials, weekly counting sheet, water purifier and tadpole food into dry Ziplock bag or plastic sleeve for protection.

**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
- Strain tank water through mesh before discarding
- Gravel in mesh bag
- Clean gravel under hot water till run-off is clear
- Start drying of mesh bag in sun
- Clean tank, gently scrub with non-scratch sponge
- Rinse and dry tank
- Instruction Booklet, education material, weekly Counting sheet, water purifier bottle and tadpole food bag placed in large Ziplock bag or plastic sleeve to avoid water damage-add to tank
- Mesh bag with clean gravel -add to tank- wrap in plastic bag if still very wet
- Non-scratch sponge -add to tank
- Lid -add to tank
- Container with froglets (and aquatic plant) -add to tank
- Bucket with tadpoles (and aquatic plant) next to tank, cover with lid
- Return froglets after hatching- feed with baby crickets in the meantime.
- Return last Monday of ACT public School Term 4, between 8am and 5pm @ GCG office, 21 Bingle Street, Flynn.

