



# FROGWATCH Tadpole Kits for Schools



## IMPORTANT PROGRAM INFORMATION

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Engaging in the care and observation of tadpoles as they undergo metamorphosis into frogs is a captivating and enriching experience suitable for individuals of all ages. Beyond its inherent fascination, this activity holds scientific significance due to the alarming decline of frog populations worldwide. It's essential to note that it is illegal to remove tadpoles and frogs from their natural habitats without an appropriate license.

To address this challenge, FrogWatch has partnered with Icon Water. Together, we offer subsidized Tadpole Kits, allowing students to observe the fascinating process of tadpoles transforming into frogs within the confines of their classrooms, all while keeping costs low. Thanks to funding from Icon Water, these kits are available at a greatly reduced loan fee of \$50 per kit, coupled with a \$50 deposit. The deposit is fully refundable upon the program's completion, provided all equipment and animals are returned according to the specified procedures.



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



## 1. Getting a Tadpole Kit

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- 1.1. Participants must complete the online request form, including the bank account details of the participating school or organisation.
- 1.2. Failure to provide bank account details on the request form will result in forfeiture of the deposit.
- 1.3. Schools/Teachers will receive an invoice for the loan fee (\$50/kit) and deposit (\$50/kit), with payment due by the specified date using the provided reference number.
- 1.4. Late payments or those without a reference number will not be accepted.
- 1.5. Payments should be made to Ginninderra Catchment Group, BSB: 032 778, Account Number: 424 126, Westpac
- 1.6. Kits are allocated on a first-paid, first-served basis until fully booked. However, the FROGWATCH Coordinator reserves the right to refuse kit supply based on past loan issues.
- 1.7. Schools may request a maximum of 4 kits for levels Preschool to Year 12.
- 1.8. Cheques can be deposited at the nearest Westpac branch. We do not accept cheques directly.

**Your booking is confirmed via email upon receipt of your payment.**

## 2. Picking up your Tadpole Kit

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- 2.1. Tadpole kits **must** be picked up on the first Monday of Term 4, between 8am and 5pm from the **GCG office located at The Flynn Community Hub, 21 Bingle Street, Flynn, ACT.**
- 2.2. Each tadpole kit contains:
  - Tadpole Care Instruction booklet
  - Zip lock bag
  - Tadpole food (bag of Spirulina)
  - Bottle with water purifier
  - Mesh bag with gravel
  - Aquatic plants
  - Bucket with lid and starter water
  - Approximately 10 tadpoles
  - Medium sized plastic tank with lid
  - Non-scratch sponge
  - Weekly counting sheet
- 2.3. All items must be returned complete, clean and in good working order at the end of the program.
- 2.4. Upon collection, the individual must ensure the tadpole kit is complete & in good condition, and sign the pickup form.
- 2.5. The collector assumes responsibility for the welfare of the animals and ensures the timely return of both the animals and cleaned equipment.



### 3. Transporting your tadpoles

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- 3.1. Avoid exposing tadpoles to direct sunlight, as they can quickly overheat and perish. If unable to set up the tank within a few hours of collection, it's essential to remove the bucket lid to facilitate oxygen flow.

### 4. Setting Up Your Tadpole Home

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#### ***Day One***

- 4.1. Position the tank in an area where it will receive partial sunlight, preferably in the morning
- 4.2. Thoroughly rinse the gravel in the mesh bag under hot water to eliminate dust and dirt. Move the gravel within the bag until the water runs clear.
- 4.3. Add the rinsed gravel to your tank.
- 4.4. Gently release the 'Starter Water' containing your tadpoles into the tank, filling it to approximately one-third. Introduce the provided aquatic plants, as they aid in oxygenation, provide hiding spots, and serve as snacks as algae grow on them. As the plants naturally degrade, they also provide additional nourishment for your tadpoles.
- 4.5. Prepare top-up water for the tadpole tank. Tap water can be harmful, so opt for rainwater if accessible. Alternatively, treat tap water to make it safe for tadpoles by either leaving in an uncovered bucket for a few hours, preferably in sunlight, or by adding a single drop of water conditioner and letting it sit for at least 10 minutes. Both methods allow chlorine to evaporate, excess oxygen to dissipate, and the water temperature to adjust to room temperature.
- 4.6. Store the instruction booklet, paperwork, water purifier, and food bag in the Ziplock bag to keep them protected and easily accessible.

#### ***Day Two***

- 4.7. Gradually add water from the bucket to the tank, pouring 250 ml at a time. This helps the tadpoles adjust to the change and minimizes disruption to the setup. Sprinkle one disk of tadpole food provided into the water.
- 4.8. Conduct a tadpole head count with your students and record your findings on the weekly tadpole count sheet.
- 4.9. Place a food pellet to the tank. If the tadpoles do not feed on it by the end of the day remove it and try again the following morning.



## 5. Looking after the Tadpoles and the Equipment

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- 5.1. Refer to the Tadpole Kit Care Instruction booklet for all care guidelines, which participants must follow.
- 5.2. Tadpoles/frogs or froglets must never be released into the wild or sewer, as this is illegal in the ACT and may result in significant fines. The FROGWATCH Coordinator is obligated to report any such releases to the ACT Licensing Authorities.
- 5.3. Document a weekly tadpole count on the provided sheet throughout the program and submit it along with the other equipment at the program's conclusion. This data is crucial for understanding the survival and transformation rates of tadpoles and froglets in school environments.
- 5.4. Once metamorphosis has occurred, froglets must be returned to the office. Froglets have different habitat and dietary needs than tadpoles and may drown or starve if these requirements are not met.

## 6. Returning the Tadpole Kit

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- 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. Return location: 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), or late (6.1) will result in fees as stated in 6.6.
- 6.4. The individual returning the clean and complete kit(s) will receive an end-of-loan receipt.
- 6.5. The deposit, minus any incurred fees, will be transferred back into the nominated account within 30 working days
- 6.6. The following fees incur for incomplete, dirty, damaged or late equipment:

\$10	Bucket and/or lid	\$20	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 and sorted before returning it (see 7.3 and end of loan checklist below).
- 7.2. Cleaning should be completed on the day of returning the kit.
- 7.3. How to clean the kit:
  - **Tadpoles:** Place some tank water into the bucket and add tadpoles.
  - **Froglets:** Place aquatic plants into a clean container, add froglets and a small amount of water, then secure lid with tiny holes for airflow.
  - Discard the remaining tank water through the mesh bag, ensuring all tadpoles are caught.
  - Carefully transfer the gravel into the mesh bag.
  - Rinse the gravel bag under running hot water while gently rubbing to clean away debris and algae until the water runs clear.
  - Place wet gravel bag in the sun to begin the drying-out process.
  - Clean out tank and gently scrubbing the sides and floor of tank with the provided non-scratch sponge until clean. Rinse and dry.
  - Place mesh bag with gravel, non-scratch sponge and tank lid into the tank.
  - Add zip lock bag with instruction booklet, counting sheet, water purifier, and food bag to the tank. Ensure they are protected from water damage.
  - Add froglet container to tank and place tadpoles bucket next to the tank.

**NEVER USE ANY CHEMICALS OR SOAP TO CLEAN THE TANK**





## **Checklist – end of loan**

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- Tadpoles in bucket
- Froglets and plants in container with small holes in lid
- 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
- Gently scrub tank with non-scratch sponge
- Rinse and dry tank
- Place instruction Booklet, education material, weekly counting sheet, water purifier bottle and tadpole food bag in large Ziplock bag 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 next to tank, cover with lid
- Return froglets after hatching – or feed with baby crickets.
- Return kit last Monday of ACT public School Term 4, 8am - 5pm @ GCG office, 21 Bingle Street, Flynn.

