



## **Dart Frog Emergency Kit #4: Wild Caught Amphibian Testing Kit**

### **Includes:**

- **1 Laboratory Test Sheet**
- **4 Sterile Synthetic Swabs**
- **2 Pairs of Non-Sterile Vinyl Gloves**
- **4 2mL Sample Collection Vials**
- **1 USPS Flat Rate Bubble Mailer**

**This kit is provided Free of Charge by Houston Frogs for testing wild caught amphibians for Parasites, Chytrid (Chytridiomycosis), and Ranavirus. Ranavirus and Chytrid Fungus are devastating amphibian populations worldwide. While 100% of our frogs are Captive Bred, there are many wild caught frogs on the market, many of which have not been properly quarantined, tested, or treated to ensure they are free of infection. Some captive bred amphibians are also infected when bred in contaminated facilities. While these frogs may be inexpensive, they may harbor ranavirus, chytrid, or parasites that can easily devastate your collection. Always ask for the source of your new frogs and if those you are purchasing were bred by the seller. Always research who you are buying from and only buy dart frogs from Reputable Companies and breeders. If you intend to purchase wild caught animals, ensure that you test these animals, treat any ailments according to your local veterinarian, and quarantine these animals in a sanitary enclosure (moistened paper towel changed daily in a clean tub) for a minimum of one month (3 months is optimal and recommended) before introducing them into their permanent enclosure.**

**Used enclosures and plants that have been housed with infected animals may be carriers for contagion as well and must be sanitized or they can easily re-infect your animal(s). As a precaution, always practice proper sterilization procedures with anything that may harbor harmful organisms as even plants or décor used from contaminated tanks can spread contagion to your collection. Houston Frogs uses F10SC and F10SCXD veterinary disinfectant for sterilizing used enclosures and a 10% bleach solution along with a second treatment of Physan 20 to treat plants previously in other dart frog habitats.**

*The included products are repackaged in our laboratory at Houston Frogs LLC. If you choose to use any of the products in this kit, you agree to hold harmless Houston Frogs LLC, the owner, and all subsidiaries and affiliates for any negative reactions, damages, or other harm caused by this kit. Remember that it is best to consult a veterinarian before using any products on your animals. By using this product, you also agree that you have consulted a licensed veterinarian about the use of this kit on your animal(s). By providing this product for free, we are not engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine nor recommending it be used on your animals. Use at your own risk.*

Procedure:

1. Put on the provided gloves and rinse with distilled water to wet your hands. The gloves will protect your frog from the oils and salts in your skin. Capture your frog gently by hand or by coaxing into a small container. Put your frog in a large tub with some paper towel soaked in distilled water. This will help your frog to stay hydrated while preventing them from escaping during the swabbing procedure.
2. Swab your frog approximately 30 times. Remember you are in effect scraping small amounts of tissue from the skin. Slight pressure must be applied but be careful not to injure your frog. Areas to primarily target are the side, thighs, and stomach.
3. Mist your frog with distilled water and return to its enclosure immediately after swabbing to reduce stress.
4. Air dry the swab for approximately 5 minutes, avoid direct sunlight if possible.
5. Place the swab into the provided vial, cut the end off, and snap closed. Label your vial with a fine tipped permanent marker for the frog you are testing.
6. Fill out the provided lab form in its entirety including payment information for lab tests and place the form and vials inside the provided plastic bag, then into the provided mailer. Avoid extreme high temperature and direct sunlight. You can print a shipping label from [usps.com](https://usps.com) for your priority small flat rate padded mailer and drop off at any post office or shipping center. Fecal samples can also be stored in the included vials and taken to your local vet for analysis for parasites. To collect fecal samples, put your frog in a treatment tub with moistened paper towel on the bottom and once it has defecated, collect the fecal sample being careful not to touch it with anything other than the vial.

Notes: If you wish to test for both Ranavirus and Chytrid (Chytrid Fungus *B. dendrobatidis*), you will need to prepare separate samples for each test. Both tests cannot be performed on one sample. With this kit, you can perform 2 Ranavirus tests and 2 Chytrid tests, or 4 of either test.

If one frog in a group tests positive, it is extremely likely that all frogs in the group are infected. Only fecals (test for parasites) will need to be taken for each frog in a group. Always collect Fresh fecals via putting your frog in a large closed container with wet paper towels and waiting for it to defecate.

If your frog tests positive for Ranavirus, Chytrid, or parasites, contact your local exotics vet immediately to have your animals treated. All vivariums will need to be 100% torn down and disinfected. Perform another test after treatment is complete to ensure the complete eradication of any contagions.

**For more information, visit us at [www.HoustonFrogs.com](http://www.HoustonFrogs.com)**