

# *Oophaga pumilio*

## ***pumilio* encompasses the following localities:**

San Cristobal  
Blue Jeans (Strawberry)  
Vulture Point  
Escudo  
Punta Laurel  
Bastimentos  
Bastimentos (Cemetery)  
Cauchero  
Rio Colubre  
Rambala



Written by:



Ryans  
Charco La Pava  
Loma Partida  
Almirante  
Salt Creek  
El Dorado  
Esperanza  
Bri Bri  
Kusapin  
Punta Vieja

**\*\*\*No You Cannot Mix Any of These or Any Other Dart Frogs!\*\*\***

**Enclosure Size:** Pumilio are a small sized dart frog, growing from 0.75"-1" in length. For 1-2 individuals, a Vertical 10 Gallon tank or 12x12x18 is the minimum. For up to 4 individuals, the minimum is a Vertical 20 gallon tank or 18x18x24. The larger the tank, the less likelihood of territorial disputes and the more foraging space for these small sized dart frogs. No more than 4 pumilio should be housed together as adults to minimize aggression and stress, although it is recommended to keep as pairs. The larger the tank, the less likelihood of territorial disputes and the more foraging space for these small sized, mostly arboreal dart frogs. In general, 5 gallons of space per frog is recommended. These dimensions assume a well-planted tank. Plants provide more hiding places and visual barriers in addition to buffering against temperature and humidity swings.

**Group Behavior:** Pumilio are highly territorial, even for their small size, and are best kept in sexed pairs when adults, although sometimes two pairs can work in a large enough tank. Generally only one male can be kept in an enclosure unless the enclosure is very large due to territorial aggression, but this will vary depending upon the locality kept. Smaller enclosures increase the chances of territorial disputes, which can get violent with grappling and tumbling between males. Aggression typically begins around 10 months of age when hormones drive males to stake out territories to attract females. Smaller pumilio introduced into an enclosure are also likely to be bullied by larger individuals.

**Typical Gender:** Pumilio can be sexed around 8-12 months of age. They can be male or female heavy depending on locality. Girth is often the primary way to guess sex, but observing calling is the best way to distinguish a male along with sometimes more prominent throat patches.

**Tank Setup:** Pumilio are smaller frogs and not good swimmers (Although they will frog-style doggy paddle to save their lives). Pumilio are mostly arboreal in nature and can easily drown in water features if sick or injured, which is ironic in that bromeliads are their preferred "hang out" spots. Paludariums and water deeper than their back are higher risk drowning hazards and recommended against. We do not recommend water features in their tank other than bromeliads. As Pumilio are arboreal in nature, they love to climb and will benefit from taller tanks for climbing. Pumilio do well with slightly higher ventilation in addition to very high humidity (80% to 90%). A glass top with 1/2" to 1" of ventilation is suggested for Pumilio. Ensure there are no small holes in your tank from which they will escape as they can fit through relatively tight spaces as well. Ensure that your tank is not constantly "wet" and that water on leaves dries out between misting cycles to prevent foot infections. Bromeliads are highly recommended for success for hiding places, for water sources in case the tank becomes too dry, and for egg laying/tadpoles deposition sites.

**Personality:** Pumilio tend to be shy but can be very bold depending on the locality. Pumilio are also very curious in nature and will explore the tank from top to bottom, which is why they can be prone to escaping from improperly built tanks--If there is an escape route, they will find it. Pumilio are suggested as advanced dart frogs because they are more prone to escaping due to their curious nature and small size, they are the very prone to stress, they are prone to issues from too low of ventilation (or too high), they are prone to drying out from too low of humidity due to their small body mass, and they can easily stress and die from temperature swings, although with the proper set up and enough experience, they can be kept with great success.