

Frogs & Toads

- There are 11 protected species of frogs and toads in BC, present in different regions of the province; it is illegal to kill, collect or harass them in any way without a permit
- Exotic bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) and green frogs (*Lithobates clamitans*) are a conservation concern and are Schedule C (non-protected) animals under the *BC Wildlife Act*



Green frog

Understanding Frogs & Toads

Bullfrogs and green frogs place enormous pressure on native frog and toad populations; bullfrogs through their predatory nature, while green frogs compete for habitat with native species.

Frogs are generally moist and/or slimy to the touch, and prefer moist habitats. Toads are generally dry to the touch and have a pebbly texture to their skin. When not breeding, toads can be found in drier land habitats.



Bullfrog

Did you know?

Bullfrogs are fierce predators and will eat anything that fits in their mouth, including invertebrates, birds, small mammals, fish, snakes and other frogs.

Common Conflicts

Green frogs and bullfrogs may take up residence in backyard or park pond habitats, and compete with native species for food and shelter. The loud calling of bullfrogs in the summer months can travel up to a kilometer.

Humane Choices

Killing native frog and toad species is illegal without a permit, and rarely necessary.

Frogs and tadpoles should not be relocated. Humane killing of bullfrogs and green frogs may be necessary to limit their spread and damage to ecosystems. Control methods should be selected to cause the least harm to the animal's welfare.

The BC SPCA strongly encourages non-lethal, non-contact methods. Prevention and exclusion comes first, and if necessary, eviction.

Frogs and Toads...

- have a varied diet of invertebrates, insects, and small fish
- breed in early spring, but green frogs and bullfrogs breed much later, in summer
- bullfrogs lay eggs on the surface of water in July, the eggs hatch in a few days and tadpoles remain in ponds through the summer and winter, metamorphosing in fall of their second year

Conflict Resolution

Native frogs can be relocated in their home range if at risk, or if in critical distress, a veterinarian or wildlife rehabilitator may euthanize. Green frogs and bullfrogs are not candidates for wildlife rehabilitation or relocation. These frogs may require humane killing under some circumstances – for more information, *flip page over*.



Recommended Actions & Methods

Prevention

Before any conflict, and to prevent future issues

Prevent creating bullfrog habitat in undesirable areas

- ✓ Avoid converting temporary wetlands into permanent ponds (this allows bullfrogs to complete their life cycle)
- ✓ Temporary or semi-permanent wetlands should retain water for approximately 3 months for the benefit of native species
- ✓ In some cases, can drain ponds towards end of summer in areas where bullfrogs are a problem

Capture

Bullfrogs and green frogs only

Capture and humane kill

- ✓ Capture using gloved hands, nets, buckets, or using funnel or pitfall traps - follow immediately by humane killing
- ✓ Apply topical benzocaine (e.g. Orajel™) to back of frog, or immerse in aqueous clove oil or benzocaine hydrochloride

These are legal, regulated methods - but they are **not recommended*** as they can cause animal suffering, may be high risk to non-targets, and/or are difficult to administer; legality must also be confirmed according to local bylaws and/or regulations

- Immersion in MS-222 (TMS)
- Shot to brain of trapped animal or free-ranging animal
- Manually applied blunt trauma that induces immediate unconsciousness

*email wildlifecontrol@spca.bc.ca for information on these methods

It is **illegal** to use...

- Freezing (including dry ice)
- Poison
- Inhalant anesthetics
- Pithing
- Immersion in alcohol
- Carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide
- Decapitation

Bullfrog,
average
length
100 -
175mm



Native
red-
legged
frog, 70-
100mm

