## PANAMANIAN GOLDEN FROG

**Range**
Cordilleran Mountains of western-central Panama

**Habitat**
Both wet rain forests and dry cloud forests: prefer a fast-flowing streams

**Diet (wild)**
Insects and other small invertebrates.

**Diet (captority)**
Length 1½–2½ inches. Adult males and females have similar coloring: a light yellowish green to bright gold. Sometimes have several black splotches on their back and legs, sometimes none at all. The females are 25 percent longer and heavier than males.

**Lifespan**
Wild: unknown. Captivity: 9 years

**Reproduction**
Mating season is between November and January, during the late rainy and early dry season. Males attract females by hand waving. When he finds a receptive female, he will attach himself to her back (amplexus) for weeks until she finds a suitable place to releases eggs, preferably a shallow pool of stream water out of sunlight. The female will release a single stream of eggs (200–600) into the water and the male will immediately fertilize them. Tadpoles hatch after 9 days and spend 6–7 months in the stream. The young frogs are tiny and brown and eventually build up the toxins in their skin.

**Behavior**
These frogs are diurnal, active during the day. Known to make a whistling sound as well as a couple other loud calls. They use a "waving" form of communication to greet, attract mates, and defend territory.

**Our animals**
1 undetermined sex. Born: 01/01/2016

**Cool stuff**
- The Panamanian golden frog is a national symbol of Panama and is considered to be one of the most beautiful frogs in Panama.
- The larger the variety of food they eat, the more toxic the Panamanian golden frog's skin secretions become.
- The nerve toxin Panamanian golden frogs produce is called zetekitoxin, after their scientific name. The skin of an individual frog contains enough toxin to kill 1,200 mice.
- These frogs are also called golden arrow poison frogs, golden frogs, or Zetek's golden frogs. They are considered a sign of good luck and prosperity. Project Golden Frog connects organizations and conservation efforts in Panama and the U.S.
- Panamanian golden frogs are classified in the family Bufonidae, which are considered "true toads." True toads are toothless and generally have warty, dry skin. They have a pair of parotid glands on the back of their heads that contain a poison which they excrete when stressed. Male toads also possess a Bidder's organ: Under the right conditions, the organ becomes an active ovary and the toad, in effect, becomes female.