



**ADULT TOAD**



**SIZE**  
 10cm - 17.5cm nose to tail

**HABITAT & HABIT**



KTB photo of perfect cane toad breeding habitat: Natural stream on black soil and man made Turkey Nest dam  
 Adults are nocturnal; cannot survive without fresh water source but can lose up to 50% of its body water and survive; may emerge only once every 4 days for rehydration in hot conditions if has suitable refuge such as the deep cracks of Kimberley soil; opinions vary about how long toad can survive without fresh water but KTBs have observed a cane toad still alive after 2 weeks of no

water in hot conditions; can survive in brackish water and up to 40% sea water; amplexing act leads to egg laying on edges of slow flowing, shallow streams and billabongs; does not drink orally but absorbs water through soft belly skin; prefers human disturbed environment such as Turkey Nest dams; can swim; not frightened by humans but learns quickly to avoid KTBs; will eat almost every animate object it can catch

**SKIN**

**Back:** Dry, hard, leathery warty skin  
**Front:** Much softer

**COLOUR**

**Head, back and top of legs:** Various, grey, yellow, olive-brown, bright dark orange or brown

**Belly:** Pale with dark mottling, absorbs water through soft belly skin (does not drink through mouth)

**FACE, HEAD, EYES**



Distinct bony ridge starting around upper eye socket, joining

between laterally directed nostrils as one vertical ridge ending at top lip; horizontal shaped pupils; eye socket not perfectly round



**WEBBING & ADHESION PADS**



No webbing between fingers, limited between toes; no

adhesion pads on fingers or toes; see rear toes in picture

**POISON GLAND**



Poison gland behind external ear (tympanum disc); irregular but generally oval shaped bulging or flat gland; exudes (or rarely squirts when particularly stressed); white coloured toxin



**KIMBERLEY SPECIALISTS IN RESEARCH Inc. & KIMBERLEY TOAD BUSTERS Inc.**

[WWW.CANETOADS.COM.AU](http://WWW.CANETOADS.COM.AU)

**FACT SHEET: NUMBER ONE RECOGNISING A CANE TOAD**

exudate in response to stress; has tiny poison glands all over warty back skin

**MALE**

Rough bumpy back spine skin; may have black nuptial pads on first two front fingers

**FEMALE**

Smoother back spine skin; generally larger than male

**POSTURE**

Often sitting up proud, more upright posture than most native frogs

**CATCHABILITY**

Often easy to catch, slow hopping, not a quick, sudden or springing gait; can not jump relative body length distance that native frogs jump

**CANE TOAD EGGS**



Long neat strings of gelatinous material containing of tiny pairs black eggs, (mature female can lay up to 35,000 twice a year - native frogs lay one up to a few hundred at a time depending on

species); ropey strands can be picked up like fishing line if found within 12 hours of deposit; can develop in brackish water; rarely find native tadpoles in same water as cane toad tadpoles

**CANE TOAD TADPOLES**



Short, stumpy, shiny black top, disproportionately large head, forms large close knit shoals



**CANE TOAD METAMORPHS**



Tadpoles emerge in their millions as

metamorphs, to inhabit muddy waters' edge as tiny black immature black toads

**CANE TOAD JUVENILES**



Generally greyer with red warts on back; thin white line down spine; nearer size of many adult native frogs, some of which have similar white stripe on spine

**ADULT CANE TOADS**



**For FURTHER INFORMATION**

See KTB frog and cane toad comparative table