

Terrestrial Ecosystems Kit

Guidelines for Returning Critters

NOTE: A student in your class or yourself can opt to adopt any of the animals– to give them a home outside of the Science Center. The adopting person would have to provide an appropriate habitat and accessories. Be sure to acquire permission from the parents of any adopting students.

INVASIVES WARNING: DO NOT release living organisms into the local environment. Even though some of the organisms that are part of this kit unit may naturally occur in our local environment, they are probably native to a more southern zone and may contain invasive micro-organisms. Do not release them into the local environment – return them to the Science Center.

Living Organism	Packaging	Specifics
Frogs	in large plastic bag (place bag in an empty aquarium*)	On the morning of pick-up, place enough water, from the frog habitat, into the plastic bag to cover most of the frog. Add any Elodea to the bag. When you are ready to move it to the pick-up area, gather and secure the open end with a rubber band (or masking tape) and place the bag in the return aquarium.
Elodea	* return aquarium = an emptied aquarium, the arid environment aquarium might be the easiest to empty. Transport return aquarium to the office for pick-up.	
Tadpoles	in one or more 4 oz. plastic jars w/lids	Depending on the size of the tadpoles place the tadpoles, with some habitat water, into one or more jars. You may place the jars in the return aquarium
Anoles	in large plastic bag (place bag in an empty aquarium)	On the morning of pick-up, place a section of damp (not soaked) paper towel in the bottom of the large plastic bag. Add the Anole(s) to the bag; gather and secure the open end with a rubber band. Place the bag in the return aquarium. (You may use a hole punch to add two small holes to the plastic bag.)
Worms	in worm delivery container	If possible, place container in the return aquarium.
Isopods	package with worms or release with soil (our exception to the “Do Not Release” rule)	

School Office = Living organism pick-up location for all Schools.