

A Cane Toad's



Lifecycle



Click to hear a male Cane Toad calling



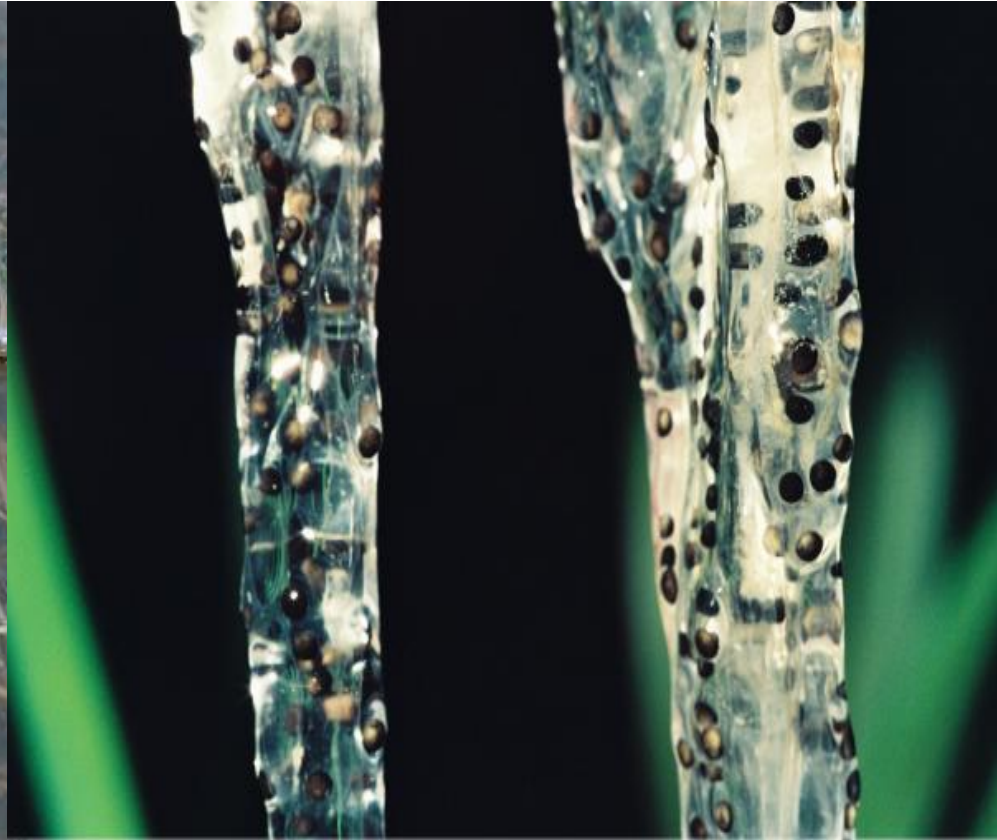
1

On warm summer nights male Cane Toads gather around water bodies (like dams and ponds) and start calling to attract nearby females.



2

When toads mate, the male frog climbs on the females back and clasps her underneath. This is called *amplexus*.



The eggs are fertilised as the female lays them in long chains into the water. This egg mass and the jelly that surrounds them is called *spawn*.



The eggs take
1- 3 days to
develop before
hatching into
tadpoles.

These
tadpoles
are ready
to emerge

Tadpoles take up to 22 days to mature before they leave the water

5

Below: Young Cane Toad Tadpoles swarming on the banks of a pond

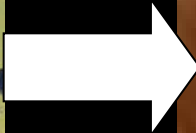


Above: Two tadpoles in the mid-stages of development into toads (note the beginning stages of rear legs)

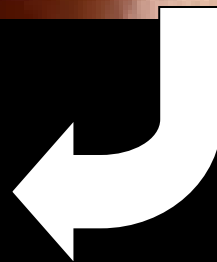
When tadpoles have developed limbs and can breathe air they leave the water and begin to develop as adult toads. They are called *metamorphs*



Almost ready to leave the water



Notice how tiny Cane Toads are when they first leave the water



This Cane Toad is only 1.5cm long

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The small toad is now ready to grow into an adult. It will take almost two years to reach adulthood and be ready to mate with the opposite sex.



Juvenile Cane Toads have different colour patterns. At this stage they are very easy to mistake as one of our native frogs.

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This large female adult is 17cm long