Shoddy

Here we are again – another tale of the collection of odd rescue animals we've had over the years. As I said last time, we've had two rescue frogs of the mice eating variety. Last time I told Baldricks story and today it's the turn of Shoddy.

This one is a larger variety of Pacman frog and at well over 7 inches in diameter much bigger than Baldrick. The size meant that Shoddy was female, males only grow to 4 – 5 inches in diameter - so for once we knew the sex of our animal.

We rescued shoddy as she was about to be thrown out, how could they? She had one back leg shorter than the other and so didn't move very well. However, if you read the last rescue animal tale, you'll know that a Pacman frog is an ambush predator. They just sit there and wait for something to go past which would fit in their mouth, and then wham, move like greased lightening, so they don't really need to get around much anyway.

When I was in South Africa, I was told that water buffalo looked at you as if you owed them money and Shoddy had that look off to a tee. See below

In fact if you looked too long at her she would morph into Winston Churchill. This was most noticeable when she was eating. She had a habit of sitting with a mouse half in and half out of her mouth – which after a while looked like a furry cigar. With hindsight we all wished we'd called her Winston 😊

Oddly for frogs this species have teeth! When combined with the more frog-like attribute of a sticky tongue/mouth and the speed at which she could move, made cleaning her enclosure interesting to say the least. It certainly honed your reflexes!

The day Shoddy got three of our son's fingers in her mouth is still one of my highlights of parenthood. Once we'd stopped laughing, the job of releasing him from Shoddy was quite a task. Between the teeth and the sticky mouth, my sons' howls, and our laughter it took us quite a while 😊

Pacman frogs can live up to 15 years and true to form we obviously looked after her too well as she did indeed live for almost 15 years.