Down to One  In 2005 researchers traveled to Panama on a rescue mission. The invasive chytrid fungus had been found in the country’s mountains, threatening to eliminate entire populations of amphibians. Biologists loaded hundreds of frogs into crates, including several dozen rare Rabbs’ fringe-limbed tree frogs and tadpoles, to protect them in U.S. labs.

Now only one Rabbs’ remains. The others died of natural causes, and new tadpoles were never able to fully metamorphose in the labs. The last Rabbs’—nicknamed Toughie by his caretakers—lives inside a biosecure shipping container with several other rare frog species. Roughly the size of an adult’s hand, he’s fed a diet of crickets and is weighed weekly but otherwise touched sparingly. “It’s pretty nerve-wracking taking care of him,” says the Atlanta Botanical Garden’s Mark Mandica. Although Toughie is healthy, researchers believe he’s also very old. —Daniel Stone