

*Myth:*

*Licking a toad will get you high.*

Fact:

There is a grain of truth to this, believe it or not, there are some species of toad that excrete a toxin capable of inducing hallucinogenic effects when eaten or smoked, but it is not just any toad, and none of the toads native to Nebraska will have that effect when licked. Believe it or not, it has been tried. (Not by anyone in our office 😊)

Toad licking has become an urban legend, propagated through word of mouth and television shows including X-Files, The Simpsons, Family Guy and L.A. Law. If a person does have the proper toad licking it is not the most common way to achieve a high. The most popular method is to “milk” the toad, by initiating its defense responses, drying the venom and then smoking it in a glass pipe. There have been instances of people keeping Colorado River toads as pets; they are a favorite of aquarium aficionados though not necessarily with the intent of using them to achieve hallucinogenic effects. Also, Indians in South America have used the toxin for its hallucinogenic qualities for years in religious ceremonies, and some tribes have used it in blowguns while hunting. Effects of use include hallucinations, loss of coordination and disorientation.