

Salamander

Care Sheet



Salamanders are fascinating creatures found across various moist habitats worldwide, particularly in North America and Europe, with some species thriving in South America and Asia. These unique amphibians enjoy a diverse diet, feasting on invertebrates and, occasionally, small fish and fellow salamanders in their natural environment. To help your salamander flourish, it's essential to create a habitat that mimics its natural surroundings, provide a balanced diet, encourage natural behaviours, and ensure its safety. With their vibrant personalities, salamanders can become quite friendly with time and patience. Most are nocturnal, coming alive at night, so be ready to enjoy their lively antics after dark!

Get to know

Getting to know your salamander is a rewarding experience! It's important to understand its unique preferences and to be attentive to signs of distress or illness. Creating a safe and loving environment is key, as this helps build a strong bond; your salamander will come to see you as its protector.

These incredible creatures can regenerate not only their limbs but also parts of their eyes, heart, and even their brain. They can rebuild muscle, tissue, and bones! This fantastic survival skill allows them to thrive, even in the face of danger from predators.

When you welcome your new salamander home, be sure to give it time to adjust to its new surroundings before handling. They can feel stressed during the transition, so offering patience and understanding will help them feel more at ease.

Enclosure

Salamanders thrive best in glass terrariums, which provide the perfect environment by allowing heat to escape and keeping the space comfortably cool. Good ventilation is crucial; it ensures fresh air flows and helps prevent harmful bacteria that could make your little friend unwell. To keep your salamander safe, secure doors are essential—consider adding a special lock to prevent any adventurous escapes! For adult salamanders, a minimum enclosure size of 45 cm x 60 cm x 30 cm ensures they have ample room to explore and feel at home. Since salamanders enjoy climbing, it's a great idea to choose a terrarium with sufficient height so they can fully utilise their habitat. With the proper care, your salamander will be happy and healthy!

Temperature

Salamanders are fascinating, cold-blooded amphibians that thrive best with a little extra warmth! To create a cosy home for them, place a heat mat on one side of their glass enclosure. Using a thermostat will help keep the temperature just right. This setup also creates a delightful warm end and a cooler end for your Salamander to explore! Just remember to keep the temperature below 24°C to avoid overheating. Your Salamander will be so happy in their perfectly maintained environment!



LIFESPAN	SIZE	TEMPERATURE	HUMIDITY
3 to 55 years depending on species	6-10 inches	Hot end: 22°C - 24 °C Cold end: 10 °C - 15 °C	70% - 80%

Environment

Substrate: When setting up salamander enclosures, choose a substrate that retains moisture and supports burrowing! Great options include sphagnum moss, coconut fibre, peat, bark chips, or high-humus topsoil. Remember to create a moisture gradient by keeping some areas moist while allowing others to dry out.

Décor: Decorating a Salamander's enclosure is essential! It encourages exercise and stimulates their instincts by including branches and rocks for climbing. Plus, artificial plants create a great environment that closely resembles their natural habitat. Don't forget to add cosy hides for them to retreat to and cool off.

Cleaning: It is essential to keep your enclosure clean and tidy. Promptly spot clean your enclosure whenever you notice waste. Additionally, all substrates must be replaced at least once a month, and the enclosure must be thoroughly cleaned using a safe disinfectant.

Diet

Feeding: Salamanders are fascinating creatures with a delightful diet primarily consisting of live insects! They enjoy a variety of tasty treats, including crickets, worms, and locusts. They can also snack on aquatic delicacies like bloodworms and tubifex, but be sure to remove them from the water first. For optimal health, feed adult salamanders 2-3 times a week, preferably at night when they're lively and alert.

Water: It's essential to provide your salamander with fresh water daily. A roomy bowl is ideal, allowing them to enjoy bathing, as they love being in water. Since salamanders might occasionally use their water as a bathroom, be sure to change it promptly. This simple care will help keep your little friend healthy and happy! Your dedication makes all the difference!

Salamander's weight

A healthy salamander typically has a sleek physique with just a light layer of fat along its spine and ribs. If a salamander appears a bit plump, it may have a fuller shape, with extra weight distributed evenly throughout. You may notice signs such as sluggishness or trouble moving, and there could be breathing difficulties if there's excessive fat around the neck. On the other hand, if a salamander appears thin and bony, with visible ribs and loose skin, it may be underweight. Keeping an eye on their health is so important!



Salamander weight



Underweight



Overweight



Health & Welfare

A vibrant and healthy salamander shines with bright, clear eyes and smooth, moist skin free from wounds or stuck shed. They are typically alert, active, and have a hearty appetite, along with clean nostrils and a healthy vent. It's essential to monitor for any unusual swellings or bumps. If you ever feel your salamander isn't feeling its best, don't hesitate to consult a veterinarian. Trusting a professional ensures your salamander receives the best possible care, thereby avoiding any potential harm.



Salamander



Hibernation

During the winter months, many salamander species embrace hibernation or brumation, seeking cosy shelter in burrows, beneath logs, or in rock crevices to stay warm and safe! Preparing for this critical process is crucial, and taking the time to research and follow the proper steps will help ensure your salamanders thrive during the cold months. With thoughtful care, you can support their survival and well-being during this essential season!

Shedding

Salamanders periodically shed their skin as they grow, much like reptiles. This fascinating process can occur weekly or monthly, and they often consume their shed skin for extra nutrients. When shedding, the skin loosens, and the salamander gracefully emerges, sometimes starting at the mouth. It's a remarkable moment in their life cycle.

Transport

When taking your animals out with you, you must ensure their travel box is safe for them. Ensure there is enough room for your tortoise to sit comfortably, but not so much that they can be knocked around. If they are new to travel, then even putting a cloth over so that there is darkness to help calm them. Ensure it's well-ventilated, but also ensure there's no escape. Heat is vital; bring a battery heat pack or a hot water bottle to help provide heat so they stay comfortable.

Diseases and Concerns

Salamanders are truly fascinating creatures, but they do face some health challenges that we should be aware of. One of the most notable is chytridiomycosis, a fungal disease caused by *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal). Unfortunately, this fungus impacts their skin, leading to lesions and lethargy, which can be serious. Another condition to watch out for is Red Leg Syndrome, where you may observe reddening in the lower body due to bacterial infections. Additionally, salamanders can carry *Salmonella* bacteria, which pose a risk to humans. If you're lucky enough to welcome a salamander into your life, remember to monitor their health closely! Regular check-ups and open dialogue with a veterinarian specialising in amphibians can make a significant difference in keeping your new friend healthy and happy. Stay informed and enjoy the remarkable journey of caring for these incredible animals!