

Newts

A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

Immediate Care and Handling

It is important to acclimate your newts to holding pails or habitats immediately. Do not leave them in their shipping bags. Give yourself about 50 minutes to acclimate the newts, to avoid the 3 deadly stresses: temperature shock, pH stress, and toxin buildup.

Open the top of the bag and float it in the holding tank or aquarium. After 20 minutes, remove and discard about ¼ of the water from the bag and replace it with water from the holding tank or aquarium. Repeat after 15 minutes. After another 15 minutes, carefully remove the newts with a net or small cup and place them in the holding tank or aquarium. Discard the shipping bag.

Habitat Setup and Maintenance

Put about 5 cm of clean sand or small gravel in the bottom of an aquarium and “bulldoze” the sand to one end, creating a land side and a spring water side. (Tap water can be detrimental to the newts.) Alternatively, you can place flat rocks in the aquarium without bulldozing the sand. The rocks should project just above the water. The depth of the water will depend on the size of the newts, but it should be a few centimeters deep at most. You can add rocks, driftwood, and live or plastic plants for decoration and to provide hiding places.

Newts are good climbers, so the tank must have an escape-proof cover. These are temperate-climate animals; maintain them at temperatures of 15.5 to 21° C (60 to 70° F), preferably at the lower end of this range. Temperatures above 24° C (75° F) or below 10° C (50° F) may weaken the animals and make them susceptible to disease. Avoid rapid temperature changes.

Care

Feed adult newts chopped earthworms and redworms, bloodworms (alive or frozen), blackworms, crushed water snails, brine shrimp (washed to remove the salt), and all-meat dog food. Commercial fish/amphibian pellets are not recommended over live foods. Efts are slightly more difficult to feed because of their small size. They require small earthworms, whiteworms, pinhead crickets, fruit flies, and very small waxworms and mealworms.

FAQ's

How many newts can I keep in a habitat?

A 10-gallon tank per 2 newts.

How often should I change the water?

Without filtration, you should replace about ¼ of the water 2 to 3 times a week. With filtration, you can go longer between water replacements.

Can I handle my newts?

No. Salts and oils on your hands can harm the newt's sensitive skin. Even if you wear gloves, you may grip the newt too tightly. Use an aquarium net or small cup to transfer newts from one container to another.

What about light?

The ideal location for your newt habitat is near a north-facing window with good natural light but not direct sunlight. Otherwise, use a low-wattage fluorescent daylight tube. Avoid incandescent bulbs. Remember to watch the temperature and provide several good hiding places for each newt.

Can I keep newts with fish?

No. Fish often have bacteria on their scales, and newts may become infected. Keep newts in habitats by themselves and only add animals that are intended for live food.

How large are the newts?

Body length is about 5 cm with an additional 2 to 3 cm of tail.

Problems? We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

Orders and replacements: 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

Technical Support and Questions: caresheets@carolina.com



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