



All Creatures Animal Hospital

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Newts and Salamanders As Pets

Average Lifespan: 10-15 years

Diet

- A mixed diet of live foods provides the best nutrition for your newt.
- Foods to give include crickets, feeder fish, houseflies, bloodworms, earth worms, night crawlers or tubifex worms.
- Feeding is only needed three times a week.
- Brine shrimp and wax worms should be given in moderation only as treats.

Grooming/Bathing

- Water must be kept clean with regular changes and/or filtration systems.

Housing Recommendations

- A basic 5-gallon screen-top aquarium can house a single newt for life. Larger enclosures will be needed if housing more than one.
- Newts require both a wet and a dry area to their tank.
- No heating is needed as newts do fine in any temperature above freezing.
- A filtration system or weekly water changes are needed to maintain the quality of water and keep it clean from uneaten food and excrement.
- Do not use heat lamps for lighting as this can fatally dry out your newt.
- Natural light and/or colored fluorescent lighting can be used.

Annual Exam Recommendations

- This time spent with our exotic veterinarian allows us to form a preventative plan for your pet. We can analyze your current husbandry and make suggestions.
- Fecal examinations check for internal parasites.
- Physical examinations by our veterinarian are needed to assess your newt's health.

Common Medical Conditions

- Vitamin A deficiency can occur if your newt is not fed a balanced diet. Signs include weight loss and lethargy.
- Bacterial dermatosepticemia, or "Red-Leg Syndrome," is a skin infection that commonly affects newts causing the skin to appear red due to bleeding under the skin on the legs.
- Edema syndrome, or "dropsy," is when your newt is retaining too much water and appears bloated. This can be a sign of bacterial infection.