



## Alpine Newt Care Sheet

**Species name:**

*Ichthyosaura alpestris*

**Adult size:**

7-12cm

**Lifespan:**

8-10 Years

**Breeding age:**

2-3 Years



Alpine newts, *Ichthyosaura alpestris*, are striking amphibians native to mountainous regions of Europe. With a distinctive appearance, they sport vibrant colours ranging from olive-green to bright orange, often adorned with dark spots or stripes. Their skin is smooth, and they possess webbed feet for efficient swimming. These semi-aquatic creatures thrive in cool, clean water habitats such as ponds, lakes, and slow-moving streams. Primarily carnivorous, they feed on a diet of insects, small crustaceans, and aquatic larvae.

## **Housing:**

**Enclosure:** Alpine Newts are a terrestrial species; they will benefit from a glass enclosure which is longer than it is tall, 30x30x20cm is suitable.

**Substrate:** Use a substrate that retains moisture well, such as coconut coir or orchid bark.

## **Temperature:**

Maintain a temperature gradient of 16-20°C within the enclosure. Provide a heat source, such as a heating pad.

## **Lighting:**

Alpine Newts do not require UVB lighting however there are studies that indicate it has benefits towards their health and well-being. A shade dwelling UVB light can therefore be used at the owner's discretion

They will also require a day/night cycle. It is recommended they are provided with around 14 hours of light during the summer and down to 10 hours in the winter.

## **Feeding:**

**Diet:** Alpine Newts are not fussy and will feed on prey items such as small locusts and crickets, to foods more familiar to the aquarium such as bloodworm.

**Feeding Schedule:** Feed every day and dust insects with a multivitamin supplement at least twice a week.



## **Hydration:**

**Water Bowl:** Provide a water dish for the Newt to bathe in, ensure this is cleaned regularly. Mist the enclosure daily to maintain humidity levels around 50-70%.

## **Handling and Enrichment:**

**Handling:** It is best your Newts are not handled unless it is necessary.

**Enrichment:** Provide rocks, branches and plenty of water. Artificial plants and hiding spots can help create a more stimulating environment. Why not consider setting your newts up on a self-sustaining bio-active terrarium?

## **Health Care:**

**Health Checks:** Regularly observe your Newts to see if you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance. If something does not seem right seek professional advice promptly.

**Hygiene:** Keep the enclosure clean, removing waste and uneaten food promptly.

**Quarantine:** Quarantine new Newts before introducing them to existing ones to prevent the spread of disease.

Alpine Newts make fascinating pets when provided with the right care. Always do thorough research and consult with a veterinarian for specific advice based on your animals' individual needs.