



Spanish Ribbed Newt Care Sheet

Species name:

Pleurodeles waltl

Adult size:

30cm

Lifespan:

8-12 Years

Breeding age:

2-3 Years



Spanish ribbed newts, or *Pleurodeles waltl*, are remarkable amphibians found in Spain and Portugal. Their defining feature is their unique defence mechanism: when threatened, they push their ribs through their skin, forming sharp spikes that deter predators. These newts inhabit freshwater habitats such as ponds, streams, and lakes, where they feed on small invertebrates. Despite their striking appearance and intriguing behaviour, they face threats from habitat loss and pollution. Conservation efforts aim to protect their natural habitats and raise awareness about the importance of preserving these fascinating creatures.

Housing:

Enclosure: Spanish Ribbed Newts are a semi-aquatic species; they are best kept in a 70-100l aquarium and should be provided a land area suitable for the newt to climb onto and rest.

Substrate: Your newt will not be fussed by which substrate you use in the aquarium/palladium, for easy cleaning use a bare bottom tank and syphon out the waste regularly. Gravel or sand is also suitable and can be cleaned using a aquarium gravel cleaner.

Temperature:

Maintain a temperature gradient of 18-23°C within the enclosure. An aquarium heater will provide ample heating and regulate itself. Check the temperatures regularly to ensure there are no extreme fluctuations.

Lighting:

Ribbed 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: Spanish Ribbed 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.



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. Provide a spacious land area for you newt to climb on and rest.

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.

Spanish Ribbed 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.