



## Yellow Spotted Salamander Care Sheet

**Species name:**

*Ambystoma maculatum*

**Adult size:**

15cm

**Lifespan:**

20 Years

**Breeding age:**

2-3 Years



The yellow-spotted salamander, *Ambystoma maculatum*, is a striking amphibian found in eastern North America's forests, distinguished by its glossy black body adorned with bright yellow spots. Preferring moist woodlands, they thrive in vernal pools and wooded areas near water sources. These secretive creatures emerge during breeding season, typically in early spring, migrating to breeding sites where females deposit their eggs. Despite their stunning appearance, they lead largely solitary lives, feeding on small invertebrates and seeking refuge under logs and leaf litter.

## **Housing:**

**Enclosure:** Yellow Spotted Salamanders 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 moss. Ensure the substrate remains damp to avoid drying the salamanders out.

## **Temperature:**

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

## **Lighting:**

Yellow Spotted Salamanders 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.

**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 Salamanders to bathe in, ensure this is cleaned regularly. Mist the enclosure daily to maintain humidity levels around 60-80%.

## **Handling and Enrichment:**

**Handling:** It is best your Salamanders 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 Yellow Spotted Salamanders up on a self-sustaining bio-active terrarium?

## **Health Care:**

**Health Checks:** Regularly observe your Salamanders 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 individuals before introducing them to existing ones to prevent the spread of disease.

Salamanders 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.