

## **Advanced Habitat**

**Plants:** Dense aquatic plants will give your newts plenty of places to hide and make them feel safe.

**Land space:** Dividing your newt tank into 1/3 land and 2/3 water can be done using a glass or plexi divide or by using rocks that are above water level to create land.

**Water Changes:** Fire-Bellied Newts like most amphibians will soak up water through their skin and since their water area is used as the main place to defecate it is important that it is cleaned regularly.

**Scenery:** Fire-Bellied Newts are very inquisitive animals and like to explore new surroundings. Once in a while change the layout of the terrarium. This will keep your Fire-Bellied Newt from becoming bored. You will notice once you put your Fire-Bellied Newt back in the tank it will start to re-explore its new surroundings.

## **Safety & Cleanliness**

Keep your pet's home clean and wash your hands before and after handling your pet or cleaning their home.

Infants, young children, pregnant women, people with compromised immune systems, and the infirm or elderly are at a greater risk of infections and should use caution when in contact with the pet or its habitat.

## **Supplies**

**Aquarium:** 10 gallons for 2 animals, add 5 gallons for each extra Newt.

**Substrate:** Aquarium gravel on water side, coco husk on the land portion

**Filtration:** Requires an aquarium filter such as an external canister filter to help keep the water clean and fresh.

**Perching spots:** Securely fastened stacked stones,

**Water Conditioners:** Water de-chlorinator.

### **Thermometer & Hygrometer**



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## **NEWTS**



**Scientific name:** *Cynops*

**For Ages:** 10 & up

**Pet lifespan:** 10-15 years

**Pet Size:** up to 5 inches in length

## Traits & Behavior

**Description:** Fire-Bellied Newts are usually dark brown to black with red or orange undersides, hence the name Fire-Bellied. The Japanese Fire-Bellied Newt (*Cynops pyrrhogaster*) is larger than the Chinese Fire-Bellied Newt (*Cynops orientalis*) and they tend to have red speckled bellies. They have rough skin, while the Chinese Fire-bellied Newts have smooth skin and a speckled orange underside.

**Temperament:** Fire-Bellied Newts are a very active species of newt, so they make great pets. They are great first amphibians, because they are relatively easy to care for. They may be quite shy when they are first introduced to a new set up, but usually become more active when they become accustomed to their surroundings.

Fire-Bellied Newts can be housed together with other Fire-Bellied Newts, but be careful if you choose to co-habit them with other species. Fire-Bellied Newts secrete a toxin from their skin that can harm other inhabitants with prolonged exposure.

**Habitat:** Fire-Bellied Newts live in slow moving streams and rivers and can also be found in ponds, lakes and ditches. They are largely aquatic, so spend the majority of their time in cool, still waters.



## Nutrition

**Staple diet:** Fire-Bellied Newts readily take bloodworms (frozen or fresh), earthworms, maggots, Tubifex, shrimp, insect larvae and slugs.

Never feed wild-caught prey as these can transmit parasites to your newts.

## Distribution

Japanese Fire-Bellied Newts are native to Japan on the Islands of Honshu, Kyushu and Shikoku. The Chinese Fire-Bellied Newt is native to China.

## Things to remember

Regular handling is not recommended, but if it is necessary, wear gloves. This will protect both you and your newts.

Never use heat lamps or basking lamps as these can cause your Fire-Bellied Newts to dehydrate.

They are good at escaping, so care should be taken to ensure your tank has a tight fitting lid.

The Chinese Fire-bellied Newt may sometimes also be referred to as the Oriental Fire-Bellied Newt or the Dwarf Fire-Bellied Newt.

## Habitat

**Housing:** Recommend at least 10 gallons of aquarium for a pair of newts, with an additional 5 gallons for each newt after that.

**Cage placement:** Out of direct sunlight.

**Water Condition:** De-chlorinated or bottled spring water should always be used as Fire-Bellied Newts are really sensitive to various chemicals found in tap water. Water should be no more than 10 inches deep.

**Landscaping:** A rocky slope may be all that is necessary for the land area of your terrarium, but if you would like to partition your tank, then you can fill the land side with a burrowing substrate like coco husk or orchid bark chips.

**Temperature:** Maintain temperature between 17-21°C (around room temperature).

**Humidity:** 30 to 40%

**Lighting:** A fluorescent UVB tube on a 12/12 cycle should be sufficient.

## Fact

Newts have very delicate skin and secrete a toxin from the poison glands on the side of their heads that can be an irritant to your skin.