



Crested and Marbled Newts (*Triturus spp.*)

Mossy Green Marbles

Marbled newts can be identified from their vibrant green and black mottled coloration, and reddish-orange dorsal stripe running the length of their bodies. Marbled newts also develop a less pronounced crest than crested newts. Crested newts vary in color from dark brown, greenish, to olive brown with darker spots and mottling along their sides, and a yellowish to orangish dark blotched ventral surface or belly. During breeding, this species also changes its appearance and develops much more prominent dorsal crests, light banding, and skin seems.

Taxonomy

Life: All living, physical, and animate entities

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum/Sub Phylum: Chordata/Vertebrata

Class: Amphibia

Order: Caudata/Urodela

Suborder: Salamandroidea

Family: Salamandridae

Genus: *Triturus*

Species: *Triturus spp.**

**Taxonomy subject to change and revision.*

Lifespan and Longevity

Captive longevity is uncertain, but potentially up to 5 years or more. They can attain longevity of 10 to 15 years in the wild.

Species

Crested and marbled newts are large, slender to stocky bodied newts consisting of 9 species altogether. Crested newts comprise of seven (7) species including the Anatolian crested newt (*T. anatolicus*), Balkan crested newt (*T. ivanbureschi*), Danube crested newt (*T. dobrogicus*), Italian crested newt (*T. carnifex*), Macedonian crested newt (*T. macedonicus*), Southern crested newt (*T. karelinii*), and Northern crested newt (*T. cristatus*). Marbled newts comprise of the remaining two species, the Marbled newt (*T. marmoratus*) and Southern Marbled newt (*T. pygmaeus*).

Distribution and Habitat

Crested and marbled newts live and reproduce in vegetation rich, fishless ponds, ditches, marshes, channels, or rice paddies, and during their terrestrial phases, surrounding deciduous to

<http://www.madisonherps.org>

coniferous woodlands and forests, or other cover rich habitats. The *Triturus* genus of newts is widely distributed over much of Europe or Eurasia depending on the exact species, from western to eastern Europe in Great Britain, France, and Spain and the Iberian Peninsula to west Siberia, with *T. cristatus* being the most widespread species.

Conservation Status

Conservation status is dependent upon the species. Some are IUCN Red List Least Concern (LC). Others are Near Threatened (NT).

Legal and Regulatory Status (*Subject to Change)

Triturus spp. Lacey Act of 1900 listed species as of 2016. Also consult with your local, municipal, and state ordinances and regulations for any ownership restrictions.

Experience Level Required

Intermediate/Moderate.

Size

Depending on the life stage, sex, and species, crested and marbled newts typically range in size from 3 ½ to 6 ½ inches, although up to 8 ½ inches is not unheard of.

Housing and Enclosure Plus Temperature, Lighting, and Humidity

Both crested and marbled newts can be hardy and robust newt species that tolerate a wide variety of environments, and can be housed either in terrestrial or aquatic setups as simple or complex as one prefers. Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured top or aquarium hood. A 15 to 20 gallon aquarium, terrarium, or other enclosure is suitable for these newts. They can also be kept communally in proportionally larger housing. The aquatic enclosure should consist of a primarily aquatic setup with a floating platform or other dry area these newts can resort to on a sand, gravel, or bare substrate. An appropriate filter can be used to help maintain water clarity and cleanliness, but conditions should still be kept as still/stagnant as possible as they do not tolerate fast flowing conditions. Also provide ample hiding opportunities in the aquarium using live or artificial planted or floating plants and rocks, or pieces of broken clay pipe. Enclosures should be spot cleaned, sterilized, and water cleaned and changed regularly every 1 to 2 weeks and water temperatures should be kept at around 50 to 75 degrees F in order to maintain these newts in their aquatic stages. These newts can also be found in a wide range of depths, although a minimum water depth of 6 inches or more will suffice.

Alternatively, these newts can be allowed to occupy terrestrial setups in temperatures over 75 degrees F but should not be allowed to become too dry or too wet, and adequate ventilation should be provided. They should be kept in a moist terrestrial setup of similar proportions consisting of a moist, chemical and pesticide free potting soil, peat or sphagnum moss, or damp paper towels that should be misted and cleaned regularly. Additional pieces of cork bark, log hides, or rock hides should also provide additional cover for these terrestrial phases of newts. A large, shallow water dish or pan should also be provided in the terrestrial setups as well to help prevent desiccation or drying out. More specific lighting, heating, and humidity product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

Feeding, Diet, and Nutrition

Insectivorous to Carnivorous; Crested and marbled newts are largely carnivorous and opportunistic feeders in the wild, feeding on small fish and fish eggs, a wide variety of insects, arthropods, worms, crustaceans, and other invertebrates. In captivity, these newts are easily fed,

<http://www.madisonherps.org>

and can readily be given chopped nightcrawlers, worms, isopods, feeder crickets, roaches, waxworms, and mealworms at least two to three times weekly, with this being their recommended feeding frequency. Any feeder insects should also be gut loaded and dusted with additional calcium and vitamin D3 supplements as well prior to feeding to ensure optimal nutrition and health. More specific dietary and supplementary product suggestions and recommendations that can best suit one's needs, as well as those of one's animals can be given as well.

Handling

As with most amphibians, crested and marbled newts are fragile animals, and handling should be done carefully or avoided and kept to a minimum whenever possible. Terrestrial phases or specimens should also be handled carefully as well, since most terrestrial newt species also have irritating, potentially toxic tetrodotoxins. Ideally, an aquarium net of appropriate size can be used to move aquatic caudates whenever necessary.

Also be sure to practice basic cleanliness and hygiene associated with proper husbandry after touching or handling any animals or animal enclosures to prevent the possibility of contracting salmonellosis or any other zoonotic pathogens

Contact

Authored by Eric Roscoe. For any additional questions, comments, and/or concerns regarding this animal, group of animals, or this care sheet, please email and contact the Madison Area Herpetological Society at info@madisonherps.org

Disclaimer: Note that the information provided in these, or any care sheets, are not intended to be all-exhaustive, and further research and care should always be sought and provided when it comes to any species one may prospectively be interested in. These care sheets are also not intended to serve as substitutes for professional veterinary medical care and husbandry should any animal require it. Always seek proper and professional veterinary care for any animal should the need arise, and be prepared ahead of time for any and all husbandry costs and expenses that may occur with any animal beyond the initial purchase. Any animal owned is ultimately a matter of personal/individual care and responsibility. MAHS cannot make any claims or guarantees regarding any information in this care sheet therein. This care sheet may be reprinted or redistributed only in its entirety, including any and all MAHS logos and disclaimers. Last updated on: 15 December 2018.

*Copyright Madison Area Herpetological Society, 2017