



## Japanese Fire bellied Newt *Cynops pyrrogaster*

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- The fire bellied newts are a largely aquatic species of newt indigenous to eastern Asia including Japan and China.
- These are fairly large, stocky newts with a sand paper like skin color of black, dark brown, to olive brown and a typically black and orange to red mottled ventral surface (or underside).
- If provided the proper care, fire bellied newts can attain longevity of 5-10 years or more.
- These newts can arch their heads and tails upwards to display their brightly colored underside to potential predators, which is known as the unken reflex.
- Fire bellied newts are a very inexpensive and hardy amphibian to maintain for the beginning enthusiast or pet owner.

### **Size**

Adult fire bellied newts reach 2 to 6 inches.

### **Housing**

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured top or aquarium hood. A 20 gallon aquarium, terrarium, or other enclosure is suitable for a pair of these newts. They can also be kept communally in proportionally larger housing. The enclosure should consist of a primarily aquatic setup on a sand or gravel substrate. An appropriate filter can be used to help maintain water clarity and cleanliness. Also provide ample hiding opportunities in the aquarium using live plants and rocks. Enclosures should be spot cleaned, sterilized, and water cleaned and changed regularly every 1-2 weeks.

Maintain adequate temperatures of 60-75 degrees F using room temperature, under tank heating mat, or aquarium heating elements. Overhead heating, UV lighting, and basking lamps are not necessary or recommended for maintaining these amphibians, as these can overheat these sensitive amphibians.

### **Feeding/Diet**

Fire bellied newts are primarily insectivorous both in the wild and in captivity. Food items that are readily accepted by these amphibians can include earthworms, waxworms, bloodworms, small feeder crickets and roaches, silkworms, or other feeder insects. Recommended feeding is 2-3 times weekly. Feeder insects should also be gut loaded and/or dusted with additional vitamin D3 supplements as well prior to feeding to ensure optimal nutrition and health.

### **Handling**

Fire bellied newts are delicate and sensitive amphibians, and handling should be avoided or kept to a minimum whenever possible. These newts can also possess toxic or irritating skin secretions as well.

\*\*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\*\*