



Spanish/Iberian Ribbed Newt *Pleurodels waltl*

- The Spanish, or Iberian ribbed newts are a largely aquatic species of newt indigenous to the somewhat arid regions of the Iberian Peninsula region of Europe (including Spain and Portugal).
- These are large newts are grayish to grayish brown in color with heavy darker mottling or blotches. The head is fairly large and flattened, skin is granular, and it has pronounced tubercles giving this species its common name.
- These tubercles can be extended and puncture through their skin as a defense mechanism.
- If provided the proper care, Spanish ribbed newts can attain longevity of 5-10 years or more.

Size

Iberian ribbed newts are a large species of newt that range up to 8 to 12”.

Housing

Iberian ribbed newts are almost entirely aquatic and require the appropriate aquatic setup. Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured top or aquarium hood. A 30-40 gallon aquarium, terrarium, or other enclosure is suitable for these newts. They can also be kept communally in proportionally larger housing. The enclosure should consist of a primarily aquatic setup with a floating platform or other dry area these newts can resort to 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 if used improperly.

Feeding/Diet

Iberian ribbed newts are largely opportunistic feeders in the wild, feeding on small fish, a wide range of invertebrates, and carrion. Food items that are readily accepted by these amphibians can include earthworms, waxworms, bloodworms, small feeder crickets and roaches, silkworms, or other feeder insects as well as commercially available diets. 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

As with most amphibians, Iberian ribbed newts are fragile animals, and handling should be done carefully or avoided and kept to a minimum whenever possible. While these newts can eject their lateral tubercles in defense, these spined ribs are not toxic or otherwise overly dangerous to humans.

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