



Tiger Salamander *Ambystoma tigrinum/mavortium*

- Belongs to the Mole Salamander family, tending to be secretive, or fossorial as adults.
- A large, stocky salamander with a broad, rounded head. Ground color can be blackish, brown, or olive usually with numerous irregular yellow, tan, to cream colored spots, stripes, and dashes.
- Wide ranging, from southern Canada, central and eastern United States, and northern Mexico.
- If provided the proper care, tiger salamanders can attain longevity of 10-15 years or more.

Size

Tiger salamanders typically range from 6-12”.

Housing

Housing must be sealed and escape proof with a secured lid or aquarium hood. A single adult tiger salamander can be housed in a 10-20 gallon aquarium with coconut husk or cypress mulch substrate. Provide a large, shallow water dish and change frequently or when dirtied. Due to their sensitive skin, water with heavy metals, chlorines, or contaminants should n*not* be used. Artificial plants, cork bark hides, and driftwood can also be included as cage furnishings.

Tiger salamanders do not require any special lighting. Maintain these salamanders within a temperature range of low 60’s to mid 70 degrees F. Do not exceed 80 degrees F.

Feeding/Diet

Tiger salamanders are insectivorous, and in the wild they will feed on a variety of earthworms, insects and other invertebrates. They will also consume smaller amphibians and reptiles as well, and can be cannibalistic in certain situations.

In captivity, they have voracious appetites, and should not be overfed. Feed Tiger salamanders 2-3 times weekly with nightcrawlers, waxworms, silkworms, crickets, or roaches, Pinky mice can be fed to tiger salamanders, but sparingly, if at all. Food items should be dusted with vitamin D3 calcium supplement.

No additional vitamin, mineral, or nutrient supplements are required to maintain tiger salamanders if the above diet is followed.

Handling

Tiger salamanders are delicate, soft bodied amphibians with sensitive, permeable skin as with most amphibians. Wash hands thoroughly before and after handling them, and avoid using any lotions, creams, or oils before handling any amphibian. Handling tiger salamanders should be minimized whenever possible and only when absolutely 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