herpy

SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Kaiser's Spotted Newt

Neurergus kaiseri

Neurergus kaiseri is a slender newt of 10-14 cm from the Zagros Mountains in south-western Iran, with a mosaic pattern of black and white spots, an orange-red stripe along the back and an orange-red belly and orange-red legs. The species is shy and nocturnal, does not tolerate heat and needs a cool winter rest in order to breed. It lives in only a few streams and is vulnerable in the wild.

Family: Salamandridae Former name: *Neurergus crocatus kaiseri* **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**10-14 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**6-8 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Wetland and temperate woodland and meadow**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 30 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**15-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**10-15 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 20-30 cm
UVB	**Optional**
Winter rest	**5-10 °C** 4-9 weeks
Diet	**Insects and worms/snails**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Larvae in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Sexually mature	**24-36 months**
Eggs per season	**45-60**
Clutches per year	**1**
Hatching	**9 days** at 22 °C
Larval period	**60-120 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix I**
EU annex	**Annex A**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
There are three ways of keeping them. A semi-aquatic aquaterrarium with plenty of rocks and hides both above and below water suits the animals for most of the year.

TEMPERATURE
Neurergus kaiseri should have 15-25 °C by day and 10-15 °C at night. It tolerates up to 30 °C on land, but long periods above 25 °C must be avoided; a cool room or a cellar suits better than a living room.

HUMIDITY AND MISTING
The species does not need high humidity, and the land section should not be misted daily; too much moisture can harm the animals. 60-80 % in the land section is suitable.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY
The water in the aquaterrarium should be 20-30 cm deep. The filter gives only gentle flow: in the wild the species also breeds in still water, but a light current works well in captivity.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species does not need special lighting; daylight or a day length that follows the seasons is enough, and the animals seek away from the light. UVB is optional.

FEEDING
The species is not fussy. On land, crickets and cockroaches of suitable size suit, as do earthworms (whole or chopped), bloodworms, enchytraeids, small waxworms, large fruit flies, fly larvae and small isopods.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Neurergus kaiseri is shy, nocturnal and sociable. On land it stays under the lowest hides by day and hunts at night between the upper hides and in open patches.

NATIVE RANGE
Iran.