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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

## Rough-skinned Newt

# *Taricha granulosa*

*Taricha granulosa* is a 13-22 cm long newt from the Pacific coast of North America, with a dark, granular back and a bright orange belly. The skin contains tetrodotoxin, one of the most potent toxins found in amphibians, and the animal is deadly poisonous if swallowed. The species alternates between water and land, can be kept in water all year round and must be kept cool.

Family: Salamandridae  Former name: *Salamandra granulosa; Triturus granulosus; Triturus similans*

**Strong skin toxins**

## KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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| Adult size | **13-22 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **12-18 years** |
| Active | **By day and at night** |
| Lifestyle | **Semi-aquatic** |
| Habitat | **Wetland and temperate woodland and meadow** |
| Skin toxins | **Strong**<br>Avoid skin contact and wash your hands thoroughly after working in the enclosure |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

### CARE

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| Min. enclosure | **60 × 30 × 40 cm**<br>L × W × H for 2 adults |
| Temperature, day | **18-21 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **14-18 °C** |
| Humidity | **80-95%** |
| Water | **Aquaterrarium**<br>depth 20-30 cm |
| UVB | **Not required** |
| Diet | **Insects, complete diet and worms/snails** |
| Kept | **In pairs or in groups** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Development | **Larvae in water** |
| Egg-laying site | **In water** |
| Sexually mature | **48-60 months** |
| Eggs per season | **7-30** |
| Hatching | **21-42 days** |
| Larval period | **60-150 days**<br>from hatching to metamorphosis |
| Larval diet | **Small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)** |
| Parental care | **None** |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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| CITES | **Not listed** |
| EU annex | **Not listed** |
| IUCN | **Least Concern (LC)** |

## Care at a glance

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| **THE ENCLOSURE** | *Taricha granulosa* is the most aquatic species in the genus. The animals alternate between land and water, some for months or years at a time, but from about one year of age they can be kept in water all year round. |
| **TEMPERATURE** | *Taricha granulosa* loves cool conditions. In summer, water and air are kept at 18-21 °C. If it gets warmer, towards 24 °C, the animals move up onto land; prolonged periods above 21 °C should be avoided. |
| **HUMIDITY AND MISTING** | The land section and the hides above the water must be damp, but not soaking. Humidity has not been measured for the species; an aquaterrarium with a lid and damp hides gives around 80-95 %. |
| **WATER AND WATER QUALITY** | The water must be 20-30 cm deep, and deeper water does no harm: it is almost impossible to give the species water that is too deep in an ordinary tank. |
| **LIGHTING AND UVB** | The species does not need UVB. Ordinary daylight in the room, or a weak fluorescent tube by day and darkness at night, is enough. The tank must not stand in direct sun, and heat lamps must be avoided. |
| **FEEDING** | *Taricha granulosa* is an opportunistic predator. In the wild it eats amphipods, insects, snails, leeches, tadpoles and amphibian and fish eggs. |
| **BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING** | Activity varies: some animals are out by day, while others hide under roots and stones and hunt at night. In the breeding season the male holds on to the female in amplexus, which can last from hours to several days. |
| **NATIVE RANGE** | United States and Canada. |