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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

## Japanese Fire-bellied Newt

# *Cynops pyrrhogaster*

*Cynops pyrrhogaster* is a medium-sized aquatic newt of 9-13 cm from Japan with an arched, brown to black back and a red to orange belly with a mottled pattern of black spots and streaks. It is hardy and long-lived and tolerates warmer water than most salamanders, but does best kept cool. The newly metamorphosed young live on land for up to several years, and this is the most difficult part of breeding.

Family: Salamandridae  Published 16 November 2026

### KEY FACTS

#### THE ANIMAL

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| Adult size | **9-13 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **20-30 years** |
| Active | **At dusk and at night** |
| Lifestyle | **Semi-aquatic** |
| Habitat | **Wetland and temperate woodland and meadow** |
| Skin toxins in the wild | **Mild** |
| Skin toxins in captivity | **None**<br>Captive-bred animals. Wild-caught animals can keep their toxins for a long time |
| Difficulty | **Intermediate** |

#### CARE

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| Min. enclosure | **75 × 35 × 35 cm**<br>L × W × H for 2 adults |
| Temperature, day | **15-21 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **12-18 °C** |
| Humidity | **70-90%** |
| Water | **Aquaterrarium**<br>depth 20-30 cm |
| Water temperature | **15-21 °C** |
| UVB | **Optional** |
| Diet | **Insects 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 | **12-36 months** |
| Eggs per season | **100-400** |
| Hatching | **18-25 days** |
| Larval period | **90-180 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 | **Near Threatened (NT)** |

## Care at a glance

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| THE ENCLOSURE | A pair needs an aquarium of at least 75 litres, for example 75 × 35 × 35 cm. More animals require more space; for a group of five adults about 90 × 45 × 60 cm is suitable. |
| TEMPERATURE | The water should preferably be 15-21 °C. The species tolerates warmer water than most salamanders, but high temperature stresses the animals and makes them more susceptible to infections. |
| HUMIDITY AND MISTING | The species lives in and near water, so the humidity above the water is not critical and has not been measured for the species. Under a tight lid it is high, about 70-90 %. |
| WATER AND WATER QUALITY | The water level is at least 1.5 times the length of the largest animal, in practice 20-30 cm, and more in larger aquariums. The animals can be kept in water all year when they have a land area. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | The species is predominantly nocturnal and does not require any particular lighting. Live plants require ordinary aquarium light. |
| FEEDING | Adults are easy to feed and take many kinds of food. The diet is based on chopped earthworms, blackworms, white worms, thawed bloodworms and brine shrimp. They also eat most feeder insects. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | The species is slow and calm and can be kept in pairs or groups when there is space and many hides. The animals are active in the evening and at night. During feeding they may snap at each other, so give food in several places. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Japan. |