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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Eastern Newt

Notophthalmus viridescens

Notophthalmus viridescens is a North American newt of 7-14 cm with three life stages: aquatic larvae, bright orange terrestrial juveniles (efts) and olive-green adults with red, black-edged spots. Adults are easy to keep in a planted aquarium, a cool winter promotes breeding, and the species is highly vulnerable to the Bsal fungus.

Family: Salamandridae Published 16 November 2026 **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**7-14 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**12-15 years**
Active	**By day and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and 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	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 30 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 4 adults
Temperature, day	**18-23 °C**
Temperature, night	**16-20 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 10-20 cm
Water temperature	**18-23 °C**
UVB	**Optional**
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	**200-400**
Clutches per year	**1**
Hatching	**21-56 days**
Larval period	**60-150 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Adults are kept in a planted aquarium with a small land area, stones or driftwood breaking the water surface. For four adults an aquarium of 60 × 30 × 30 cm suits.
TEMPERATURE	In spring and summer 18-23 °C suits, and at night it may be a couple of degrees cooler. In winter the water temperature is lowered to about 5-10 °C.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Adults live in water, so the humidity above the water matters less. Efts need 70-90 % humidity and a damp, but not wet, substrate. Mist the enclosure regularly, and keep soil and leaf litter damp.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Adults are kept in water where depth is not decisive. 10-20 cm of water with plants and hides is plenty, and the animals use all the space. The water must be still and clean.
LIGHTING AND UVB	UVB is not necessary for *N. viridescens*, but can be used. Shade and plant cover are more important than bright light. Shorter days and cooler water in winter promote breeding behaviour.
FEEDING	*N. viridescens* eats anything small that it can overpower. Adults take chopped earthworms, blackworms and bloodworms (live or frozen) and strips of beef heart.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Adults swim fast with the flattened tail and are slow on land. They are best kept in pairs or in a small group, but males can compete and fight over the females.
NATIVE RANGE	United States and Canada.