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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

## Italian Crested Newt

# *Triturus carnifex*

*Triturus carnifex* is a robust crested newt of 12-18 cm from Italy, the southern Alps and the north-western Balkans. It has warty, dark skin and a yellow or orange belly with large, blurred black spots, and the female often has a yellow stripe along the back. In spring the male develops a tall, serrated crest. The species is hardy and easy to keep and breed.

Family: Salamandridae  Former name: *Salamandra carnifex; Salamandra platycauda*  Published 16 November 2026  **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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| Adult size | **12-18 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **7-17 years** |
| Active | **At dusk and at night** |
| Lifestyle | **Semi-aquatic** |
| Habitat | **Wetland and temperate woodland and meadow** |
| Skin toxins | **Mild**<br>Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth |
| Difficulty | **Beginner** |

### CARE

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| Min. enclosure | **45 × 30 × 30 cm**<br>L × W × H for 4 adults |
| Temperature, day | **12-20 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **8-15 °C** |
| Humidity | **70-95%** |
| Water | **Aquaterrarium**<br>depth 15-30 cm |
| Water temperature | **10-20 °C** |
| UVB | **Not required** |
| Winter rest | **4-10 °C**<br>6-12 weeks |
| 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 | **150-400** |
| Hatching | **14-35 days** |
| Larval period | **56-112 days**<br>from hatching to metamorphosis |
| Larval diet | **Complete diet, other larvae and small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)** |
| Parental care | **None** |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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| CITES | **Not listed** |
| EU annex | **Not listed** |
| IUCN | **Vulnerable (VU)** |

## Care at a glance

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|---|---|
| THE ENCLOSURE | *Triturus carnifex* can be kept following its natural cycle with an aquatic phase and a terrestrial phase, or in water all year. |
| TEMPERATURE | *Triturus carnifex* loves cool conditions. The water must be kept below 25 °C, as in warmer water the animals try to leave it. The animals are fully active down to about 10 °C. |
| HUMIDITY AND MISTING | In the aquatic phase humidity is no problem. In the terrestrial phase the soft skin dries out quickly, so the substrate must be kept moist, with a humidity of 70-95 %. |
| WATER AND WATER QUALITY | A water depth of 15 cm is enough, and deeper is fine: 15-30 cm gives the animals room to swim. The water is kept at 10-20 °C. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | The animals are nocturnal and do not need UVB or artificial light for their own sake. The plants need light to grow, and an ordinary aquarium lamp is enough. |
| FEEDING | In the aquatic phase *T. carnifex* takes a wide range of food: earthworms, freshwater shrimps (*Gammarus*), bloodworms, daphnia and white worms. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | *Triturus carnifex* is robust and easy to keep. In the water the animals snap hard at anything that moves, including each other during feeding, and in the wild they also eat smaller amphibians. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina. |