



Tiger Salamander at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Beginner to moderate**

Average lifespan: **15–25 years**

Average adult size: **Around 11” or more**

Diet: **Carnivorous**

Minimum habitat size: **20 gallons (single)**

Temperature: **60–75 F**

Fun fact ↪ They make soft chirping or rustling sounds to communicate.



Enclosure Setup & Maintenance

- Tiger salamanders need a terrestrial tank with at least 20 gallons for one and 30 gallons for two. Use deep substrate, about 3–4 inches, so they can burrow. Good options include sphagnum moss, coconut fiber, or cypress mulch. Keep one side moist and the other slightly drier to create a gradient.
- Provide plenty of hiding spots using bark, plants, and other decor. Maintain temperatures between 60–75 F and humidity around 70%. Use lighting for 10–12 hours daily to support a natural cycle.
- Spot-clean regularly and perform a full cleaning weekly. Replace substrate, clean all items, and allow everything to dry before returning your pet to the enclosure. Handle your salamander as little as possible during cleaning.

Supply Checklist

- 20–30 gallon enclosure
- Substrate for burrowing
- Water and food dishes
- Hides and decor
- Low-wattage light and UVB lighting
- Thermometer and humidity gauge
- Calcium and vitamin supplements
- Live or frozen insects and worms
- Mister



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Fun fact ↪ They are amphibians, not reptiles.

Health

Healthy tiger salamanders have clear eyes and skin, a good appetite, and normal activity.

- **Signs of illness:** Swelling, discharge, or skin lesions
- **Behavior changes:** Lethargy or not basking
- **Other concerns:** Refusing food or weight loss

Annual vet visits and proper care help prevent most health issues.

Fun fact ↪ Tiger salamanders are the largest terrestrial salamanders.

Diet

Tiger salamanders eat a variety of insects and worms. Their diet should include items such as crickets, earthworms, roaches, silkworms, and waxworms. Feeding a variety of foods is important so they receive balanced nutrition.

All insects should be gut-loaded before feeding and dusted with calcium and vitamins once a week. Commercial amphibian diets can also be used to supplement their meals.

Larger salamanders can occasionally eat thawed pinky or fuzzy mice as a treat, but live rodents should never be offered. Mealworms should also be avoided because they are difficult to digest.

Juveniles should be fed every one to two days, while adults can eat two to three times per week. Feeding should take place at night, since they are nocturnal animals.



Fun fact ↪ They get their name from the stripe patterns on their backs.