



# Marbled Salamander

(Banded salamander)

*Ambystoma opacum*

<b>Adult Size</b>	3-4 inches	<b>Life Span</b> 8-10 years
<b>Male/Female Differences</b>	The bands on the females tend to be gray, while those of males are more white.	
<b>Compatibility</b>	They are solitary creatures	
<b>Origin</b>	Southern New Hampshire to northern Florida, and west to southern Illinois, southeast Oklahoma, and east Texas. It is also found around Lake Erie and Lake Michigan and in Southwest Missouri and along the northern border of Ohio and Indiana. It is a threatened species in Michigan.	
<b>Climate</b>	Damp woodlands, forests and places with soft soils	
<b>Day Cycle</b>	Nocturnal and burrow or take refuge under logs during the day.	
<b>Temperature</b>	Should be provided with 65 degree to 75 degree F temperature during day and 60 degree F during night.	
<b>Lighting</b>	Very little light is actually needed for your salamander. They are fine with just using ambient room light, but if you wanted a little light in there you could use non heat fluorescent light. Try to keep it 12/12 cycle, meaning 12 hours on and 12 hours off. Continuous bright, overhead lighting is stressful.	
<b>Humidity</b>	60%-70% Shallow water dish should be kept inside of cage and make sure that you are spraying cage twice a day. However, you must keep an eye out for bacterial skin lesions, excessive and inadequate humidity levels can lead to illness in the form of respiratory infections	

	and a very damp environment easily lends itself to the growth of mold and fungus.
<b>Habitat/Territory</b>	Marbled salamanders prefer woodlands or marshlands. Places where debris accumulates and stays damp, but yet well drained. Adults spend most of their time in burrows, leaf litter, under rocks, bark, or logs.
<b>Substrate/Bedding</b>	Provide your salamander with a dirt substrate deep enough where they could borrow, coconut mulch would be appropriate and moss on top to keep its area nice and damp. You could also provide natural live plants, twigs, tree bark and pieces and wooden corks for them to climb.
<b>Hiding Place/Den</b>	Keeping a hideout in their cage is very important. Also, to add interest create and have fun with a beautiful terrarium with good drainage. Add moisture loving plants and decoration.
<b>Cage Type</b>	A glass aquarium would best suit them as it will hold proper moisture. A 5-10 gallon would be appropriate, since they are stationary.
<b>Diet</b>	Adults eat invertebrates, such as earthworms, slugs, snails, centipedes and a variety of insects. Larvae eat zooplankton. As they grow larger, they will eat tadpoles, insects and other salamander larvae. Pretty much anything that fits in their mouth.
<b>Supplements</b>	Provide and alternate a multi vitamin supplement and calcium supplement with D3, dust the powder on those insects. The supplement is required once a week.
<b>Diet Precautions</b>	Once they get older, they can start eating bigger prey, such as larger worms and crickets.
<b>Feeding</b>	Feed them two insects at most every other day. You can give them as variety, and alternate protein source. In a small shallow dish, you could give them small worms, so they don't get out and get lost in the substrate.
<b>Water Source</b>	Always have fresh, clean water available for your salamander in a shallow dish. The bowl should be large enough where they could climb in to soak. Make sure the water dish is changed daily.
<b>Grooming</b>	You must watch out that the salamanders skin doesn't dry out. Keeping the terrarium clean, damp, and well drained is essential in skin health. Otherwise skin infection will occur.
<b>Shedding</b>	Salamanders shed their skin several times throughout the course of their lives. It comes off and you may sometimes find it floating in or on top of the water.

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<b>Proper Handling</b>	Salamanders have delicate skin, try to keep handling to a minimum, but if you must handle them, always do so with clean, wet hands.
<b>Habitat Maintenance</b>	Make sure you spot clean the cage at least once a week. Do a thorough cleaning once a month. This entails removing all of the contents of the cage and disinfecting them using white vinegar or a mild solution of bleach water. Rinse very well, Salamanders will absorb any toxins through their delicate skin. The substrate should also be completely changed once a month.
<b>Health Concerns</b>	Genetically healthy, top health problems are caused by poor husbandry, inadequate humidity, malnutrition and poor cleanliness.

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