



## Fire Salamander

*Salamandra salamandra*

**Description:** This is a smaller species of salamander and is largely noted for their bright coloration. They are black and yellow, sometimes orange. They have large and active parotid glands behind their heads. Their average size is 4-10 inches and they weigh on average 2 oz.



**Habitat:** Like all salamanders, they need a certain level of moisture in the air for health. They will bury in the ground for moisture and are commonly found near pools, rivers, and lakes.

**Range:** Fire Salamanders have a large range and are found all over Europe in both lowlands and high altitude. They can be found from Ireland to North Africa.



**Life Span:** They can live on average 10 years in the wild and longer in captivity.



**Natural Diet:** Salamanders are naturally carnivorous. They will feed on worms, crickets, larvae, and various insects.

**Zoo Diet:** At the zoo, they are fed a diet of meal worms, crickets, and wax worms

**Behavior:** They were given their name by a mistaken belief that they once dwelt in fire, when actually they were coming out of the logs that were once their refuge. Mainly they are active at dawn and dusk, females being more active than males.

**Reproduction:** Fire Salamanders are usually known to mate in early fall and will lay eggs into a pool after winter. The eggs will become tadpoles and then salamanders through metamorphosis.

**Conservation Status:** Common