



# Tiger Salamander

## *Ambystoma tigrinum*

**Description:** Tiger Salamanders have a very unique pattern which is different on every salamander, but there's no doubt where this amphibian gets its name. Resembling a tiger, the tiger salamander has black and yellow stripes down its body. They are the largest land salamander and averages 4 oz with a max length of 14 inches.



**Habitat:** Like most amphibians, tiger salamanders are found in moist climates near water or buried under the ground. They take in gases through their skin so proper moisture levels is key to their survival. However, they are the only salamander that can survive in arid climates by digging burrows up to 2 feet deep.



**Range:** They have a very extensive range, being found from Canada through Mexico.

**Life Span:** Their average life span is 12-15 years.

**Natural Diet:** Tiger salamanders, just like their namesake are carnivorous. They eat worms, crickets, and other insects, frogs and other salamanders.

**Zoo Diet:** At the zoo they are fed a diet of crickets.

**Behavior:** They are a fierce nocturnal predator, only coming out of their burrow at night to hunt. They spend most of the time under ground in moist areas, near ponds, lakes and rivers.

**Reproduction:** All Amphibians are born as tadpoles and tiger Salamanders are no exception. The females will lay their eggs in a body of water for them to hatch as tadpoles then to change into salamanders.