



# Salamander Chytrid Disease

Other names: Chytridiomycosis, *Bsal*

- ◆ The Salamander Chytrid Disease, which is caused by the pathogen *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (*Bsal*), has spread from Asia to Europe where it has killed large numbers of salamanders and newts.
- ◆ This disease now risks being spread to Canada, the US and Mexico where there are more native salamanders and newts than anywhere else in the world.

**Protect your pet salamanders and newts!**  
**Protect wild amphibians!**

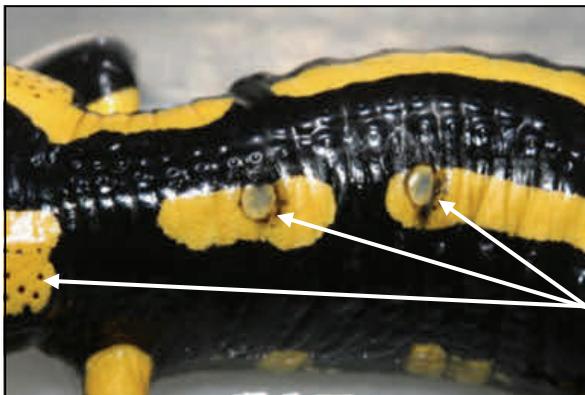
## At Home

### Safe Pet Purchases & Care

- ◆ Where do your pet salamanders or newts come from? Take appropriate precautions when purchasing amphibians and discuss *Bsal* with your pet shop staff.
- ◆ Neutralize cage wastewater before disposing of it: use bleach (1/4 to 1/2 cup per liter of water) and let stand for at least 10 minutes.

### Observe & Report

- ◆ Check your pet amphibian for skin abnormalities (reddening, ulcers) or other signs of disease and contact your veterinarian when in doubt.
- ◆ Quarantine your abnormal pets to prevent contamination.



## In the Wild

### Prevent introduction and movement of the disease

- ◆ Do not release salamanders, newts or any other animals into the wild.
- ◆ Do not touch or manipulate wild amphibians.
- ◆ Wild salamanders should never be collected for pets or moved at all.

### Be aware in the outdoors

- ◆ Contact the **Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) National Office [1(306) 966-5099]** if you observe a number of dead or sick wild salamanders or newts.
- ◆ Take close-up photographs of the amphibians and send them to the **CWHC (national@cwbc-rccsf.ca)**.

### Follow this simple disinfection protocol when visiting wetlands:

1. Wash your equipment (boats, boots and field gear) with soap and rinse with water (preferably hot tap water, if available). Do this at least 50 meters away from a water body.
2. Use a 5% bleach solution to disinfect: use 1½ cups of bleach for 9½ cups of water.
3. Rinse out the bleach with hot water (if available).
4. Let your equipment dry completely if you are done for the day.

## For more information

- ◆ **The Amphibian Survival Alliance and Amphibian Specialist Group:** [www.amphibians.org](http://www.amphibians.org)
- ◆ **The Origins of the Salamander Eater :** [www.amphibians.org/news/watching-extinction-happen-origins-of-the-salamander-eater](http://www.amphibians.org/news/watching-extinction-happen-origins-of-the-salamander-eater)
- ◆ **The Chytrid Disease website:** [www.salamanderfungus.org/about-bsal](http://www.salamanderfungus.org/about-bsal)
- ◆ **The Chytrid Disease Facebook Page:** [www.facebook.com/salamanderfungus](http://www.facebook.com/salamanderfungus)
- ◆ **The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative website:** [www.cwhc-rccsf.ca](http://www.cwhc-rccsf.ca)



Top border photos courtesy of Crowley (2016). From left: Northern Two-lined Salamander, Spotted Salamander, Red-spotted Newt and Blue-spotted Salamander. Jefferson Salamander photo (above) courtesy of Gillingwater (2016). Fire Salamander with ulcers photo by: Mark Blooi (2016)