

# Quick Identification Sheet: Amphibians

## Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)



- 1). GCN egg      2). GCN Larva      3). Male in breeding condition under water  
4). Male in breeding condition on land (note the tail stripe)  
5). Male (right) displaying to female (left) underwater during breeding season.

## Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*)



- 1). Smooth or Palmate egg (indistinguishable)      2). Larva  
3). Male in breeding condition underwater      4). Adult terrestrial condition  
5). Speckling on underside of adult including the throat  
6). Adult in breeding condition found on land.

**N.B. You must have a license or be with a licensee if you will disturb Great Crested Newts.  
Newts front legs develop before their back legs**

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**Palmate Newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*)**

1). Larva      2). Adult terrestrial form      3). Cream spots shown on adult's hind feet  
4). Adult female underwater    5). Adult showing pale chin colour without spots  
6). Male in breeding condition underwater.

	Great Crested Newt	Smooth Newt	Palmate Newt
<b>Egg</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oval jelly.</li> <li>• Pale yellow coloured egg.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rounded jelly.</li> <li>• Off-white (grey/brown) egg.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like the Smooth Newt.</li> </ul>
<b>Larva (Eft)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 5-9 cm long.</li> <li>• Prominent black speckling.</li> <li>• Large gills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 3-4 cm long.</li> <li>• Less obvious speckling.</li> <li>• Smaller gills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like the Smooth Newt.</li> </ul>
<b>Adult (general)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black body.</li> <li>• Bright yellow underside and irregular spots/ blotches all over.</li> <li>• White speckling on sides.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 10cm long.</li> <li>• Paler orange/brown body &amp; orange belly stripe.</li> <li>• Rounder spots than GCN.</li> <li>• Chin underside with spots/ speckles on.</li> </ul>	Same size and colour as Smooth Newt, but has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pink chin with no spots/ speckles.</li> <li>• Cream spot on hind feet.</li> </ul>
<b>Male (mature)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8.5-15cm long</li> <li>• Jagged crest along back, which dips at base of tail.</li> <li>• White tail stripe towards rear of tail, very prominent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wavy crest, along whole of back to tip of tail.</li> <li>• Slight silver/orange stripe along base of tail.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ridge, rather than crest along back and tail.</li> <li>• Tail filament present</li> <li>• Thick black webbing on hind feet.</li> </ul>
<b>Female (mature)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9-17cm long.</li> <li>• Orange stripe along underside of tail (juveniles also have this).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paler beige/brown colour.</li> <li>• Less obvious spots .</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like the Smooth Newt.</li> </ul>

# Quick Identification Sheet: Amphibians

## Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*)



- Call: Deep, low-pitched croak (purr-like) sound
- Eggs: Laid in clumps
- Movement: Hop away from predators—listen for ‘plop’ sound into pond
- Male: Generally slightly smaller in size, with whitish swellings on inner digits of front feet in breeding season

## Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*)



- Call: High pitched ‘Qwark’ (bird-like) sound from male toads only
- Eggs: Laid in strings
- Movement: Crawl away from predators
- Protection: UK BAP species

**N.B. Both Frogs and Toads *back* legs develop before their front legs**