

The Life and Times of
the Great Crested Newt
(Gus and Cara Newt)

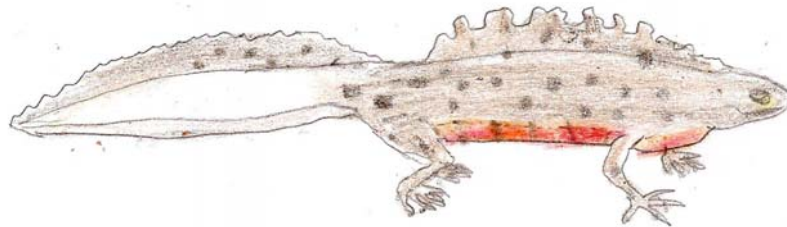
Chapter One

Our Home

We sleep all winter – not because we are lazy but because there is not enough food around for us.

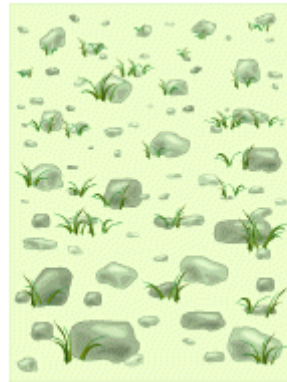


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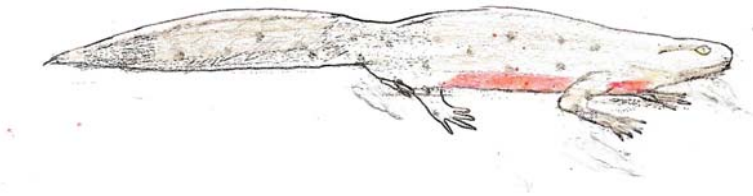


We need a damp place to hibernate. It has to be damp but not wet because our skin needs to be kept damp.

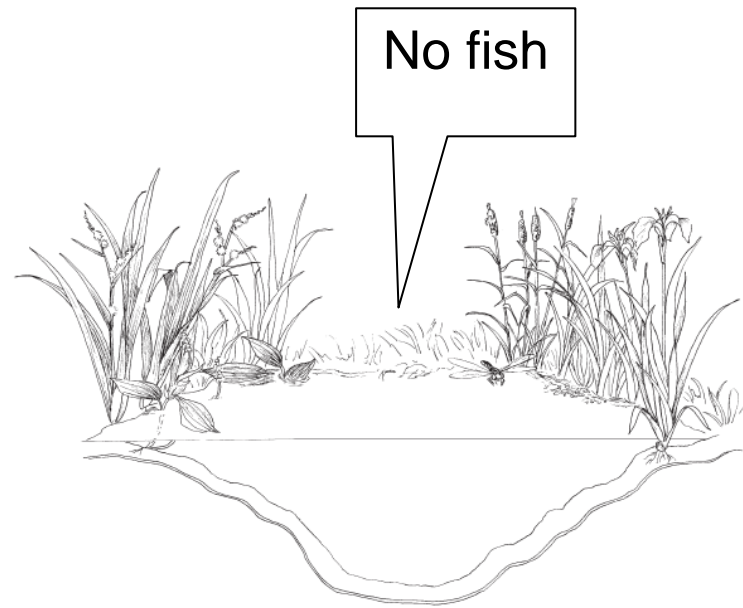
A pile of bricks or logs is ideal, and so is a damp hole amongst tree roots.

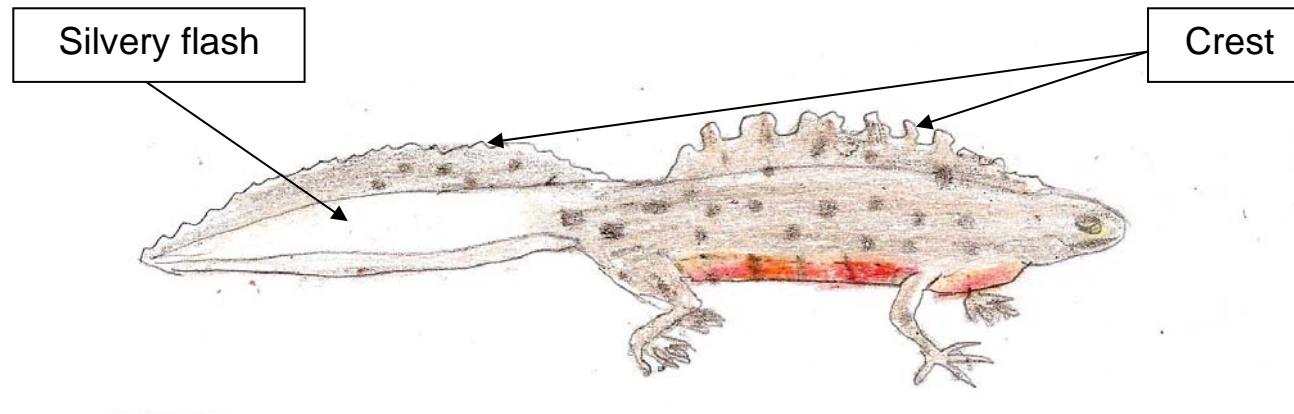


We wake up in spring. The weather is warmer and there is food around for us to eat.



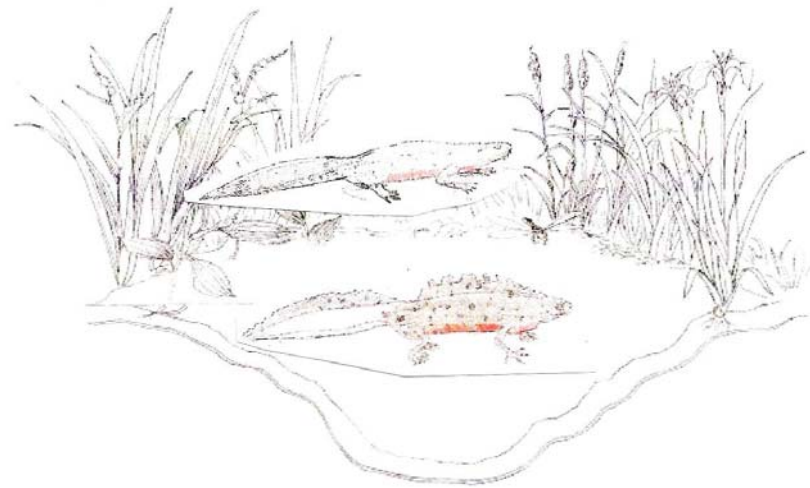
We need a pond to breed in. Not too deep and not too shallow. Clean water. Some pond plants. No fish!





Gus Newt grows a crest to impress Cara Newt. He also has a silvery flash on his tail.

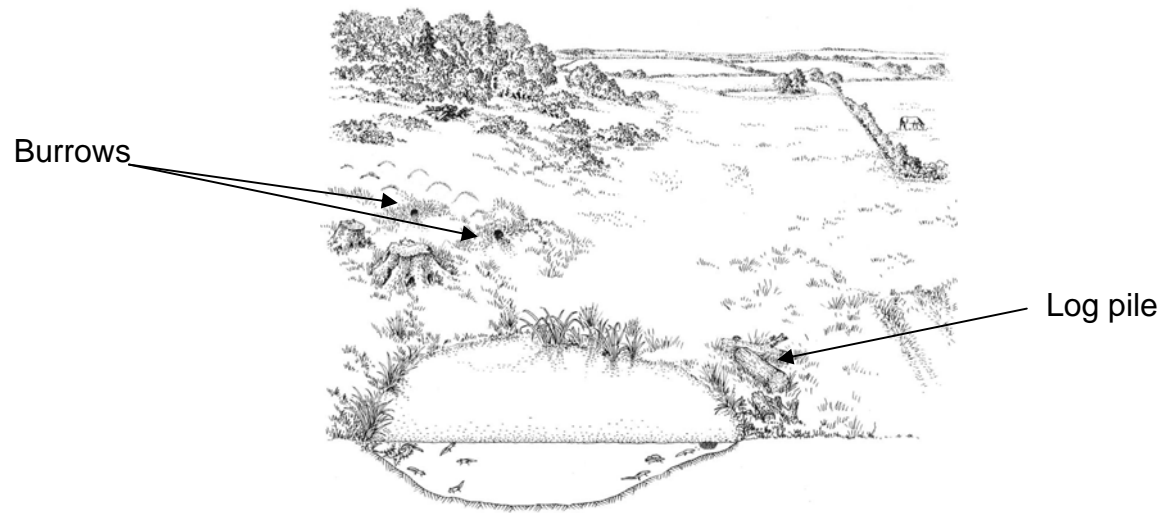
They spend the spring in the pond. Cara Newt lays about 300 eggs.



They are not laid in a clump like frogspawn. She lays one or two on some plant leaves in the pond. She folds the leaf over and sticks it down. This helps to hide them from other creatures that might want to eat them!



In summer we come out of the pond. We stay near the pond. We don't want it too posh, with smart lawns! We want tall plants, dampness and food.



We eat as much as possible. We eat beetles, slugs, snails and worms on land, and go back into the pond to feed on water creatures.



After we have fattened ourselves up, we find an old burrow or log pile and hibernate for the winter.



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