



# Salamander Chytridiomycosis



## *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal)

A new fungal disease caused by the pathogen *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal) was recently introduced to Europe from Asia and has killed a number of European salamanders.

North America is home to more native salamander species than anywhere else in the world. Thus, we need the help of all amphibian lovers to protect this treasure trove of animals.

## What you can do to help

**Prevent Introduction and Movement of the Disease** • Do not release salamanders into the wild • Do not touch or manipulate wild amphibians • Wild salamanders should never be collected for pets or moved from one place to another

### In the wild

#### Follow this disinfection protocol when visiting wetlands

Wash your equipment (boats, boots, and field gear) with soap and rinse with water at least 150 ft away from the wetland.

Use 5% bleach to disinfect (1.5 cups of bleach for 9.5 cups water).

Rinse out the bleach with hot water (if available). Let your equipment dry completely.



### At home

#### Safe Pet Purchases & Care

Find out where your pet salamanders come from.  
Discuss Bsal with your pet shop staff.  
Sterilize cage waste water before disposing of it.  
(Use bleach (1/4 cup per quart of water) and let stand 10 minutes.)

#### Observe & Report

Check your pet for skin problems (reddening, ulcers) and contact your veterinarian if you have concerns.

If these signs appear quarantine your pet to prevent the spread of disease.

#### Be Aware in the Wild Places

Contact the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (608-270-2480) if you observe dead or sick wild salamanders.

(Take close-up photographs of the sick or dead amphibians and send to [NWHC-epi@usgs.gov](mailto:NWHC-epi@usgs.gov))



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