



Jimmy the Newt By Parker

I just recently had a birthday. When I get money for my birthday I have to put half of what I get in the bank and the rest I get to keep. With the money I kept I bought myself a cool newt. I'd like to tell you about my new pet newt that I named Jimmy. He is a fire bellied newt. He is black on top and on his belly is orange with black splotches. A newt is like a salamander, which are amphibians. Amphibians live most of their lives in the water. Jimmy is a semi-aquatic amphibian, so he enjoys coming onto dry land. Right now Jimmy is 2 1/2 half inches long but he can grow up to 4 inches long. Jimmy lives in my fish tank in my bedroom on my dresser. Because newts like a dry area I made Jimmy a Lego tower with some rocks on top. The tower also has a little box house so he can hide if he likes. He doesn't use it much yet. He likes to go behind the filter, squished between the filter and glass. Jimmy likes it there because it's dark and the filter vibrates. Newts like dark vibrating places. Jimmy lives in my fish tank with a sucker fish. His name is Kirby. Really he is a Chinese Algae eater. Kirby doesn't do his job very good. Kirby is like a messy roommate. Newts are also escape artists. You need to make sure your tank is all closed up because they can squeeze through most places. One day I couldn't find Jimmy. We looked all over in the tank and outside of the tank but we didn't find him. Then my Mom picked up the filter and shook the filter and out he came. Again, newts like dark vibrating places!! Newts are carnivores, which mean they like to eat meat. On land they can eat insects and worms. In the water they can eat shrimps, water lice and insect larvae. Jimmy likes to eat frozen blood worms too and that's what we feed him. Bloodworms are kind of messy because they are, well.....bloody! I really like my Newt Jimmy, but sometimes I worry because I can't see him. I want to take out my filter so I can see him more easily because he is always hiding behind the filter. But my Mom says "No, the water needs the filter to clean his tank". Newts are a very gentle pet but always wash your hands before and after you touch them.

P.S. Since I wrote this Jimmy died.