

Male Betta Fish Care Sheet

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Your Pets Super Store



Congratulations on your new pet. Bettas are known for their bright colors and spectacular fins. They are also known as Siamese fighting fish due to the male betta's extreme aggressiveness towards other bettas. In their place of origin, betas often live in small puddles, so they do well in smaller habitats. With proper care a betta fish can live up to four years.

HOUSING

Bettas must be able to breathe from the surface of the water. Their long fins make them prefer water with little or no movement or current. Male betas are often kept individually in smaller containers or aquariums, but do best in containers of one gallon or more. As with any animal, provide the largest habitat possible. Water must be de-chlorinated. You can use spring water or use a water conditioner to treat your tap water. It is possible to keep one male in a community tank that does not have aggressive fish, such as tiger barbs, or fish that bettas may become aggressive towards, like fancy guppies. Water temperature will be more stable in a larger unheated container than a smaller one. They prefer to be in the mid to high 70's. Do not put the container in a sunny window where temperatures can get quite hot during the day and cold at night. Test water quality weekly. Gravel and tank decorations of your choice can be added. Always rinse gravel and decorations before adding to your tank. Do not add natural sea shells as they will affect the pH.

DIET

Bettas can be fed any good quality fresh packaged betta food. They will enjoy frozen or dried blood worms too. Feed your betta sparingly three times a week, only what they can eat in three to five minutes. Overfeeding can quickly foul the water, especially in smaller, unfiltered containers. Bettas are carnivores and do not eat plant roots.

CLEANING

If you keep your betta in an unfiltered container of two gallons or less you will need to do a complete water change once or twice a week. Use an aquarium cleaning pad to wipe out

CLEANING - continued

the inside of the container and rinse thoroughly. Condition tap water and check temperature before returning your betta to its bowl. In a filtered aquarium, do a partial water change (25%) once a month. Rinse out the filter material and replace the carbon.

HEALTH

Maintaining good water quality and stable temperatures is the best way to keep your fish healthy. The pH level of the water should also be checked. Regular water changes and adequate filtration are the keys to success. A healthy fish will be active and alert with vibrant colors. He will eat eagerly and react aggressively to outside stimulus. Signs of illness would include: loss of appetite, labored breathing, frayed fins, staying at the bottom of the tank and spots or fungus on the body or mouth. If you notice any of these, have your water condition tested. Creature Comforts provides free water testing. One of our pet care specialists can explain the available treatments.

FERTILITY

Betta fish do breed in captivity but can not live in the same tank together other than breeding. Both male and female must be ready to breed and the female must be removed to her own tank after spawning.

CHECK LIST

- _____ appropriate sized container or tank
- _____ betta food
- _____ gravel and tank décor
- _____ water conditioner
- _____ water test kit
- _____ net