

# Female Betta Fish Care Sheet

CREATURE COMFORTS

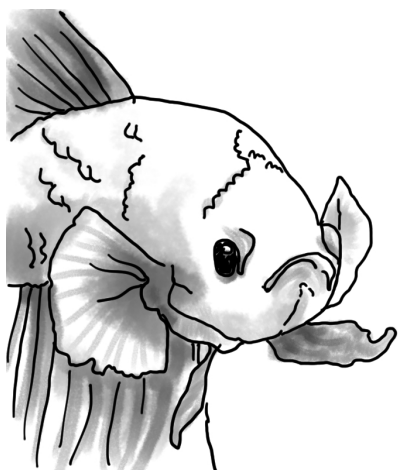


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Congratulations on your new pet. Bettas are known for their bright colors and spectacular fins. Though a female has shorter fins and are less colorful they are able to live together in sororities. These tanks of bright females can be very striking and fun to watch. 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. They prefer water with little or no movement or current. Female betas can be kept individually in smaller containers or aquariums, or you might consider setting up a large tank to house multiple females together. 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. They prefer to be in the mid to high 70's. Gravel and tank decorations of your choice can be added but make sure the space is broken up into different territories as even females can be territorial. 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 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. She 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.

## **CHECKLIST-----**

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