

Betta Fish Care Sheet



Difficulty of care:

Beginner

Average lifespan:

3–5 years with proper care

Average adult size:

2.5 inches long, not including tail

Diet:

Carnivorous

Minimum habitat size:

1 gallon or larger

Water temperature

72–82 F

pH

6.0–8.0

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Supply Checklist

- Appropriate size aquarium
- Appropriate food (dry and frozen)
- Decor
- Water test strips
- Water conditioner
- Net
- Freshwater substrate
- Filter
- Heater
- Freshwater aquarium salt

Habitat

Betta Fish Tank

- Single betta fish need at least a 1-gallon tank.
- Male bettas need to be kept individually.
- Female bettas can be housed with other community fish or other female bettas of a similar size.
- 15-gallon tank needed for multiple bettas/ community fish (depending on the number of fish).
- An aquarium's filter should be powerful enough to process all the water in the tank at least four times an hour.
- Use aquarium test kits regularly to ensure pH, ammonia, nitrate, and nitrite levels are stable and within a safe range.
- Water temperature should be maintained at 72–82 F.
- Check the water temperature of the tank daily using an aquarium thermometer and provide a tank heater if necessary.

Decor and Accessories

- The tank should be lined with at least 1–2 inches of freshwater substrate.
- Aquariums need about 1 ½-pounds of substrate for each gallon of water in the tank.
- Rinse the substrate with clean, running water before adding it to the tank.
- Provide hiding places and caves for your fish.



Cleaning and Maintenance

Environment

Maintain the condition of your betta's tank by performing routine water changes every two to four weeks. Avoid draining and replacing all the water. Most aquariums will need a full cleaning once a month, depending on the number of fish in the tank.

How to Clean a Fish Tank

1. Wash your hands thoroughly.
2. Do not remove fish from aquarium.
3. Use a soft sponge or scrubber to scrape the inside walls of the aquarium.
4. Remove the aquarium's accessories and any artificial plants that have significant algae growth. Use an algae pad and hot water to scrub any buildup or debris.
5. Use a 3% bleach solution to remove the stubborn buildup. Accessories should soak in the diluted bleach solution for 15 minutes before being rinsed thoroughly. After cleaning, leave the accessories to air-dry fully.
6. Inspect the aquarium's filter to ensure it's working properly and doesn't have any algae buildup. If the filter needs to be cleaned, follow the manufacturer's instructions.
7. Use a siphon vacuum to remove waste or old food from the bottom of the tank. This step will also drain water from the tank and prepare the aquarium for a water change.
8. Add new, dechlorinated water to the tank to replace the water that was siphoned out. The new water must be detoxified with a water conditioner to remove toxic chemicals like chlorine, chloramines, and heavy metals. The added water should be at the same temperature as the existing water in the tank.
9. Use an aquarium-safe cleaner to clean the outer walls of the aquarium. Household cleaners should be avoided, as they often have ammonia and other chemicals that are toxic to fish.



Diet

Feed bettas once a day. A well-balanced betta fish diet consists of:

- A variety of meat-based fish foods, including flakes, pellets, freeze-dried bloodworms, daphnia, and frozen foods.
 - Frozen foods should be thawed before feeding.
 - Baby betta fish should be fed a smaller pellet or finely crushed flake food.
- Treats, including frozen/thawed or live blood worms or brine shrimp, offered in limited quantities; feed treats in moderation to prevent obesity.



Health

Signs of a Healthy Betta

- Bright coloration
- Full range of motion of fin movement, equal on both sides
- Intact fins all the way to the edges with no discoloration
- Regular and active swim pattern
- Large appetite

When to Call a Vet

- Changes to the betta's coloration: becoming dull, focal spots of change, stripes or bands of color change
- Lethargic swimming when the fish is circling, listing to the side, staying on the top or bottom of the tank, etc.
- Receding fin edges with or without discoloration at the edges
- Decreased appetite for more than a day
- Itching
- Rapid breathing potentially with flared gills
- Gill color changes
- Presence of lumps/bumps/masses
- White growths/spots of any kind

Common Illnesses

- Fin/tail rot
- Dropsy (fluid filled body cavity)
- Parasites
- Bacterial infections
- Cancer
- Ich
- Pop eye
- Fungal oral or skin infections
- Swim bladder disorders

Betta fish care sheet on
PetMD.com:

