

BIG AL'S BETTA CARE SHEET



WHAT IS A BETTA? Bettas are known for their jewel-bright colours and spectacular fins.

They are also known as Siamese fighting fish due to the male betta's extreme aggressiveness toward other bettas. In their place of origin, Southeast Asia, bettas often live in small puddles, so they can do well in small tanks or bowls and can live in water that is only a few inches deep. They are a type of "labyrinth fish", which gives them the ability to breathe oxygen from the water surface as well as through their gills as other fish do. Bettas will attack other bettas (or sometimes other fish with long fins like angels or guppies) and are famous for their aggressive displays of flared fins and open gills. Bettas are easy to care for, and if you provide the necessary conditions, they should provide you with enjoyment for up to three years.

SETTING UP THE BETTA BOWL/TANK:

1. Rinse the bowl, gravel, plants, and ornaments thoroughly with warm water (DO NOT USE SOAP!).
2. Put the items in the tank as you want them to be displayed.
3. Add room temperature tap water.
4. Add Big Al's Multi-Purpose Water Conditioner©.
5. Allow new water to stand for at least a day or two before purchasing and introducing a new Betta.
6. Float the betta's bag in the water for 15 minutes, allowing the temperature to stabilize then gently release it into the tank/bowl, and then add Big Al's Bio-Support©.

HOUSING/TANK CARE:

- ✓ The Betta must be able to breathe from the surface of the water, so an air-tight aquarium lid should be avoided. The long fins and slow metabolism make Bettas prefer water with little or no movement.
- ✓ Although Bettas are usually kept individually in small containers or aquariums, they do best in containers 1 gallon or larger. Larger containers make maintenance easier, with fewer water-changes being required.
- ✓ Bettas acclimate to average household temperatures between 70°-75°. An aquarium heater is beneficial to use to ensure that the temperature will remain constant and safe. Be cautious of extreme temperature change and keep the Betta from direct sunlight or drafty areas. Keeping a betta below 70° for long periods of time causes inactivity and makes them more susceptible to disease.
- ✓ Change 50% of the Betta water at least once/week, with similar temperature water that has been conditioned. Never use soap to clean the tank. Be sure to keep the filter maintained (if you are using one). You should try to avoid changing more than 50% of the tank water at one time. Let new water sit out over night or at least 12 hours to allow water temperature to get to room temperature. Providing a proper diet will increase your betta's life expectancy and boost its immune system. Be sure to add the appropriate amount of Big Al's Water Conditioner© to any tap-water used.

FEEDING:

Bettas are carnivorous fish. In the wild they eat insects (especially mosquito larvae), so provide them with a varied diet rich in protein. Feed sparingly (3-6 pellets) once daily. Be sure not to overfeed the fish; the fish should eat all of the food that is placed in their tank in 1 minute. If there is left over food, be sure to remove right away. Overfeeding can quickly foul the water, especially in small unfiltered aquariums. Some good Betta foods include:

- Hikari Betta Bio-Gold pellets
- Freeze-dried bloodworms

COMPANIONSHIP:

Bettas can be kept with other fish, remember that male betas are VERY territorial towards any fish that they think looks like another male betta. A betta is a distinctive individual and will have its own personality, but is capable of living with other fish. Ask any one of our knowledgeable staff at Big Al's for any further advice. Do not mix Bettas with very active fish or fish that sometimes nip at fins (like Tiger Barbs, Danios, BloodFin and RedEyed Tetra)

REMEMBER!

Bettas are beautiful living creatures. It is the responsibility of the pet owner to care for their pet and provide a healthy environment. So, give your betta space, clean, warm water, plenty of hiding places, and high-quality, high-protein foods to ensure a long and healthy life for your betta.

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