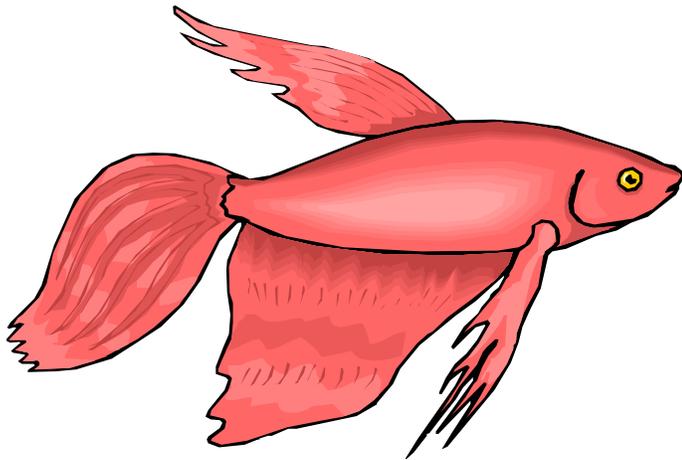


Basic Information on a **Bettas**



If you're looking for an unusual addition to your home aquarium or an attractive, easy-to-maintain desk pet, then a *Betta splendens* may be the fish for you!

Bettas — or Siamese Fighting Fish, as they are commonly called — have been kept as pets since the beginning of the fish keeping hobby. They are available in a variety of different fin types and a wide range of colors. Though females are similarly colored, the males of this species sport the longer, more extravagant fins.

The Betta belongs to the family of fish known as *Anabantoids*. These fish possess the ability to breathe atmospheric oxygen. This gives the Betta versatility as an aquarium fish - permitting them to be kept in aquariums as well as bowls like those commonly used for goldfish.

Before introducing your pet Betta to its new home, make the water safe by adding a water conditioner to tap water. Chlorine normally found in tap water will burn the gills of the Betta (or any fish) and kill them. DO NOT use distilled water, it is "too pure." Dechlorinated tap water is best.

Bettas are carnivores and enjoy a varied diet. A quality fish food made specifically for Bettas should form the basis of the daily feeding schedule. They will also enjoy regular offerings of treats such as brine shrimp, flake food, and blood worms. Your Betta can be fed daily provided that all food is consumed within a few minutes of that feeding.

Male Bettas are very aggressive towards other males of the species. In fact, they are aggressive to any other fish with eye-catching, flag-like fins. Only one male Betta can be kept per aquarium or bowl. Females do not normally display this aggressive nature and may be housed together.

Because of the variety of colors available, many hobbyists prefer to have several Bettas - keeping each male in his own individual bowl. When placed side by side, adjacent males will commonly flare their beautiful fins as a challenge to their neighbor, which produces an unusual display.

With good care, Bettas will live 2 to 3 years.

Please Note: The information in this handout is meant to provide basic information only. Please see a salesperson for more information.

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Supplies Checklist

- Aquarium
- Food
- Water Conditioner
- Decorations
- Plant
- Gravel
- Net
- Book

Basic Information on a Healthy Fish Bowl

For many people, the first experience with ornamental fish consists of a fish bowl. Many of them never move on to keeping an aquarium because their experience with a fish bowl wasn't successful. Here, we'll set down guidelines that will make fish keeping, in a bowl, successful.

Selecting Fish

Fish bowls, unlike aquariums, are usually set up without a filtration system. Therefore, it is important to limit the number of fish in the bowl. A general rule of thumb is one fish per two quarts of water – but there are exceptions – so please consult a salesperson for guidance.

Some of the fish best suited for a bowl are goldfish (comets, fantail, black moors), bettas (siamese fighting fish – but only one to a bowl!) paradise fish, gouramies (dwarf, blue, gold, opaline, platinum, or giant gouramis) and corydoras catfish.

Bettas, gouramies and corydoras catfish are capable of breathing oxygen from the surface of the water. "Still water", with little or no circulation, will support them. Goldfish are just tolerant of still water. All are hardy, easily kept, and attractive.

When selecting a location for the bowl, choose an area where the temperature won't change drastically over short periods of time. Don't put it on top of a TV set because the heat from the set will warm the water. The same problem exists in kitchen cooking areas. Never place a bowl in a window. Sunlight will not only cause the water to heat up, but will also cause an algae bloom which will turn the water green.

Getting Started

Materials for your "fish bowl" setup include (1) the bowl, (2) gravel (enough for a 3/4 inch layer), (3) chlorine neutralizer, (4) fish food, (5) a small net, (6) a clean gallon container (a plastic milk container is ideal). Place gravel in the fish bowl. Fill the bowl about two-thirds full of water from the tap with room temperature water. Add the correct dose of chlorine neutralizer to remove the



harmful chlorine from the city water (use the dose for "one gallon of water" - a little overdosing won't hurt). Then, acclimate the fish to their new home as outlined in the "fish

insurance policy". Fill the bowl to only "two-thirds full" allows for the greatest air-to-water surface area providing the maximum exchange of oxygen/carbon dioxide. It also makes it more difficult for the fish to jump out if they become excited or scared.

Fill a gallon plastic container with tap water and add dechlorinator. Keep this container near the bowl so the water temperature will be the same. This water will replace your "old water" when cleaning the bowl.

Feeding

When feeding fish, feed sparingly. Feed only the amount the fish can consume in 2 - 3 minutes. If you find you're overfeeding, cut back immediately!

Overfeeding can be disastrous. Corydoras catfish will eat the food that settles to the bottom of the bowl, so they serve a useful purpose as well as being an interesting fish.

Keeping the bowl clean

Your fish will be happier and healthier in a clean bowl. At least once a week pour water from the bowl into a clean glass. Use a small net to remove the fish from the bowl and put it into the glass of water from the fish bowl. Now, dump the water out of the bowl and rinse the gravel or decorations thoroughly with clean water. Do not use any dish soap in the bowl – just use clean water and an algae pad! (Soap residue will kill your fish!) Refill the bowl with the room temperature tap water you have set aside for this purpose. If you have not already added the chlorine neutralizer, do so according to instructions on the bottle. Using the net, carefully put the fish back into the clean bowl.

Following these basic guidelines should ensure success in keeping your fish healthy and your bowl clean.

Please Note: The information in this handout is meant to provide basic