



Betta

(*betta splendens*)

Facts:

Average adult size: **2 1/2 inches long, not including tail**

Average life span: **up to 3 years with proper care**

Diet: **Carnivore**

Minimum aquarium size: **1/4+ gallons**

Water temperature: **72-82°F**



Bettas are known for their jewel-bright colors and spectacular fins and come in a wide variety of morphs. They have been referred to as Siamese fighting fish due to the male betta's extreme aggressiveness toward other bettas.

Feeding & Nutrition:

Diet

- A variety of flakes, pellets, freeze-dried bloodworms and frozen food to ensure complete nutrition.

Feeding

- Feed sparingly and no more than fish can eat in 1 to 2 minutes; overfeeding can quickly foul the water, especially in smaller, unfiltered aquariums.
- Thaw frozen foods before feeding.
- Baby bettas require a smaller pellet or finely crushed flake food when feeding.

Housing:

- Keep in an appropriately sized aquarium. Bettas must be able to breathe from the surface of the water. They prefer water with little or no current.
- Male bettas are kept individually and do best in habitats of one liter (approximately a quarter of a gallon) or larger. Male bettas can live successfully in a community tank that does not have aggressive fish (such as tiger barbs) or fish that bettas may become aggressive toward (such as fancy guppies). Female bettas may be housed with other community fish or other female bettas.
- **Stable water quality and parameters are critical to the health of aquatic life.**

Habitat Maintenance

- Daily: check filter, water temperature and other equipment (if used).
- Weekly: Check water quality at least once a week. Do a 50% water change for small habitats (less than 2 gallons) once a week. In larger aquariums, change 10 to 25% of the total volume of water every 2 to 4 weeks, or more often as needed.

Care:

Characteristics

- Bettas breathe from the water's surface with their labyrinth organ in addition to their gills.
- Bettas will "flare" fins when threatened or disturbed and to show aggression.
- Male bettas will attack other male bettas and males have also been known to attack similar-looking fish and fish with flowing fins.

Note: The information in this Care Guide is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

Care Guide



Compatibility

- Male bettas must be kept in individual tanks or be the only betta in a community aquarium. Female bettas can be kept in a community tank. Do not keep male and female bettas together.

Health

- Active and alert
- Eats regularly
- Vibrant colors (males only)
- Reacts aggressively to outside stimulus

Fun Facts

- Did you know that the male betta raises its babies? The male protects the eggs and builds the bubble nest where the eggs will grow!
- Betta fish originated in Thailand and Cambodia, which is why they are also called Siamese fighting fish.
- Bettas prefer slow-moving water and don't do well in river-like currents.
- If you place a mirror in front of a Betta, it will see its own reflection and think it to be a rival. Instantly it will go on a fighting spree, waving fins and moving about. Once the mirror is taken away, the Betta will feel triumphant, thinking that the fight has been won.
- Bettas have a labyrinth gill, allowing them to breathe oxygen directly from the surface of the water.
- Betta fish have upturned mouths, a position known as the 'superior mouth' when it comes to fish. It enables them to efficiently feed near the water's surface, allowing them to catch mosquito larvae and small insects from the floating vegetation.
- There are over 60 known morphs of bettas.
- Popular bettas are shown below:



Veiltail Betta
male



Double Tail Betta
male



Veiltail Betta
female



Delta Tail Betta
male



Crowntail Betta
male



Halfmoon Betta
male



Crowntail Betta
female



Dragon Scale Betta
male



Halfmoon Double Tail Betta
male

Recommended Supplies:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Size Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Net |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Conditioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater Substrate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decor | <input type="checkbox"/> Heater |

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