

shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriate size aquarium
- book about Bettas
- appropriate dry and frozen food
- décor
- water conditioner
- filter
- water test kit
- full spectrum lighting (T5 recommended)
- net
- thermometer
- freshwater substrate
- heater
- hydrometer
- airstone
- air pump

sources

Ask an associate about the Petco library of books on Bettas and the variety of Petco Brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet.

Because all aquatic life are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Salmonella, always wash your hands before and after handling your aquatic life and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before caring for a Betta and should consider not having a Betta as a pet. Go to the Centers for Disease Control at cdc.gov/healthypets for more information about Bettas and disease.

This Care Sheet may cover the care needs of other species. Go to petco.com/caresheet for more information.

betta

betta splendens



care sheet

Bettas are known for their jewel-bright colors and spectacular fins. They have been referred to as Siamese fighting fish due to the male Betta's extreme aggressiveness toward other Bettas.

betta facts:

average adult size:	2 ½ inches long, not including tail
average life span:	up to 3 years with proper care
diet:	insectivore
minimum aquarium size:	¼+ gallons
water temperature:	72°–82°F

***Note:** The information in this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian.*

diet

A well-balanced Betta diet consists of:

- A variety of flaked, tablet or frozen food to ensure complete nutrition.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your Betta:

- Feed sparingly 3 times per week and no more than fish can eat in 3–5 minutes; overfeeding can quickly foul the water, especially in smaller, unfiltered aquariums.
- Thaw frozen foods before feeding.
- Baby Bettas require a smaller pellet when feeding.

housing

- Keep in an appropriate size aquarium. Bettas must be able to breathe from the surface of the water. They prefer water with little or no current.
- Male Bettas are usually kept individually in smaller containers or aquariums, but do best in containers 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, water temperature and pH levels are critical to the health of aquatic life. If you are unsure of your water quality or pH levels, Petco provides free water testing.

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.
- Male Bettas will attack other male Bettas and males have also been known to attack similar-looking fish and fish with flowing fins.

habitat maintenance

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

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.

signs of a healthy fish

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

Avoid overcrowded conditions; they are a major cause of stress and disease. Maintain good water quality with regular water changes and adequate filtration.

red flags

- loss of color or appetite
- spots or fungus on body or mouth
- listlessness
- labored breathing

If you notice any of these signs, test water quality and improve as necessary.

common health issues

Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Fin Rot	Frayed or disintegrating fins; the base of the fins usually reddens.	Improve water quality; consult with your veterinarian for treatment.
Ich	White spots appear on fins and body; fish rubs against hard objects or swims awkwardly.	Quarantine fish immediately; use commercial ich remedy for at least two weeks.