

# Anemone

*Condylactus spp, Heteractis spp, and others*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Anemones are beautiful invertebrates found in tropical reefs. Their tentacles are venomous, and stun potential prey that comes within reach. Many anemones have developed a mutually beneficial relationship with clownfish and with some marine hermit crabs. Recommended for experienced marine aquarists only.



### Is an anemone the right choice for your aquarium?

| Yes                      | No                       |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

1. I have room for an appropriate size aquarium.
2. This anemone would be compatible with my other aquarium inhabitants.
3. I can commit to providing proper care for this anemone.
4. A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this invertebrate.

If you answered "Yes" to these statements, an anemone may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for an anemone and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible aquarium care.

**Average Size** 4 to 48 inches across, depending on species      **Life Span** Up to 2 years with proper care

**Diet** Small amounts of flake, tablet, or frozen food particles such as reef plus, brine shrimp, or commercial liquid food specifically for saltwater invertebrates

**Feeding** Feed once or twice a week; larger anemones need more frequent feeding  
Thaw frozen foods before feeding

**Housing** Keep in an appropriate size aquarium  
Full spectrum lighting and strong filtration are essential  
Water temperature should range from 75° F. to 82° F.  
Salinity levels range from 1.020 to 1.026

**Stable water quality, water temperature, and pH levels are critical to the health of the invertebrate. If you are unsure of your water quality or pH levels, PETCO provides free water testing.**

|                             |   |   |                                    |
|-----------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Recommended Supplies</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate size aquarium                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate food       | <input type="checkbox"/> Décor     |
|                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Water conditioner                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquarium salt          | <input type="checkbox"/> Filter    |
|                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Water test kit                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Full spectrum lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Net       |
|                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Protein skimmer        | <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate |
|                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Heater                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrometer             | <input type="checkbox"/> Airstone  |
|                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Book about invertebrates or reef aquariums |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Air pump  |
|                             |   |   |                                    |

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- Characteristics** Six (or multiples of six) tentacles arranged around the mouth; avoid direct contact with anemone tentacles, as they are poisonous; people with strong reactions to bee stings may react similarly to contact with anemone tentacles
- Attach to rocks and other surfaces with a specialized foot
  - Very sensitive to changes in their environment
  - Require excellent water conditions to survive
  - Keep away from aquarium heater
  - Use of copper-based medications can be toxic
- Habitat Maintenance**
- Check filter, water temperature and other equipment daily
  - Check water quality at least once a week
  - Check salinity levels at least twice a week
  - Change 10–25% of the total volume of water every two to four weeks, or as needed
  - Introduce new inhabitants to the aquarium gradually
- Compatibility** Compatible with specific species of clownfish; check species-to-species compatibility before purchase
- Anemones may eat smaller fish, urchins, crabs, and other roaming invertebrates
- Signs of a Healthy Anemone**
- Securely attached to chosen surface
  - Healthy appetite
  - Responds to food or touch
  - Shrunken tentacles
- Common Health Issues** Little is known about diseases that affect invertebrates; as long as environmental conditions and food supplies are adequate, invertebrates are fairly resistant to disease
- Signs of Illness**
- Loss of color
  - No response to stimuli
  - Loss of appetite
  - Shrunken tentacles
- If you notice any of these signs, test water quality and improve as necessary**
- Preventing Common Health Issues**
- Avoid crowded conditions; they are a major cause of stress and disease
  - Maintain good water quality with regular water changes and adequate filtration
- Sources** *Saltwater Aquariums for Dummies* by Gregory Skomal  
*The Simple Guide to Marine Aquariums* by Jeffrey Kurtz

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