

Barb

Barbus spp, Puntius spp



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Barbs are hardy and active schooling fish. Originally from Southeast Asia, many barbs have developed stunning colors and distinct personalities. These schooling fish can become aggressive if kept singly or in pairs. Barbs are recommended for beginning aquarists.



Is a barb 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:

- I have room for an appropriate size aquarium.
- This barb would be compatible with my other aquarium inhabitants.
- I can commit to providing proper care for this barb.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this fish.

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

Average Size 1½ to 3 inches long, depending on species **Life Span** Up to 4 years with proper care
 Some species (such as the tinfoil barb) reach 13 inches long

Diet Standard or color-enhancing tropical fish flake foods
 Supplement with frozen bloodworms as a treat

Feeding Feed small amounts once or twice a day, no more than the fish will eat in 3 to 5 minutes, according to the directions on the packaging
 Thaw frozen foods before feeding

Housing They require less space than saltwater fish (about 1 inch of fish per one gallon of water)
 Provide plenty of space for swimming and hiding places
 Provide proper filtration to maintain health
 Water temperature should range from 72° F. to 82° F.

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

Recommended Supplies

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate size aquarium | <input type="checkbox"/> Tropical flake food | <input type="checkbox"/> Light |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water conditioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Frozen bloodworms | <input type="checkbox"/> Net |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water test kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Décor | <input type="checkbox"/> Airstone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer | <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Air pump |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heater | <input type="checkbox"/> Filter | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquarium cover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about freshwater fish or aquariums | | |

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Characteristics Very active, most species usually swim in the middle or lower levels of the aquarium
Feel most comfortable in schools of five or more of the same species; odd numbers are recommended to prevent pairing
Can become aggressive if kept singly or in pairs

Habitat Maintenance Check filter, other equipment, and water temperature daily
Check water quality at least once a week
Change 10–25% of the total volume of water every two to four weeks, or as needed
Introduce new fish to the aquarium gradually

Compatibility Compatible with most rainbowfish, danios, and gouramis
Larger barbs can be compatible with larger tetras and less aggressive cichlids
Avoid housing with smaller, slower fish, especially fish with long fins (such as bettas), as barbs will harass them by nipping at their fins

Signs of a Healthy Fish

- Active and alert
- Clear eyes
- Eats vigorously
- Swims without effort

Common Health Issues

Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Fin Rot	Fins appear opaque or frayed.	Improve water quality and use appropriate antibacterial medication.
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.

Signs of Illness

- Loss of appetite
- Frayed fins
- Labored breathing
- Spots or fungus on body or mouth
- Listlessness
- Cloudy eyes

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 *Aquariums for Dummies* by Maddy Hargrove and Mic Hargrove
The ASPCA Complete Guide to Pet Care by David L. Carroll
The Simple Guide to Freshwater Aquariums by David E. Boruchowitz

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.