

Male Betta

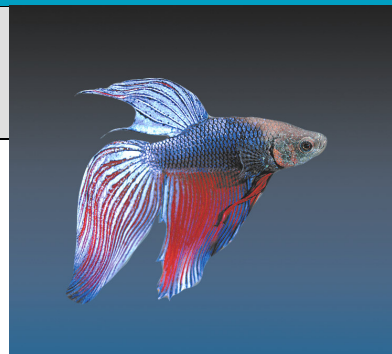
Betta splendens



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Bettas are known for their jewel-bright colors and spectacular fins. They are also known as Siamese fighting fish due to the male betta's extreme aggressiveness toward other bettas. In their place of origin, Southeast Asia, bettas often live in small puddles, so they do well in smaller habitats.



Is a male betta 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.
- The male betta would be compatible with my other aquarium inhabitants.
- I can commit to providing proper care for this male betta.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this fish.

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

Average Size 2½ inches long, not including tail

Life Span Up to 4 years with proper care

Diet Food may be flaked, tablet or frozen
Feed a variety of food to ensure complete nutrition

Feeding Feed sparingly 3 times per week and no more than a fish can eat in three to five minutes; overfeeding can quickly foul the water, especially in smaller, unfiltered aquariums
Bettas are primarily protein eaters, and cannot survive by eating plant roots

Housing Bettas must be able to breathe from the surface of the water; their long fins makes them prefer water with little or no movement or current

Male bettas are usually kept individually in smaller containers or aquariums, but do best in containers of one liter or larger; as with all animals provide the largest habitat possible. They 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)

Bettas acclimate well to average household temperatures; be cautious of extreme temperature change; aquarium should never be in direct sunlight or in a drafty area; water temperature should range from 64° F to 82° F, with mid to high 70's preferred

A popular way to keep bettas is in a vase with plants; make sure there is air between the water and bottom of the plant for the betta to breathe

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.



Habitattitude™

Recommended Supplies

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Appropriate size aquarium | <input type="checkbox"/> | Water conditioner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Commercial betta food | <input type="checkbox"/> | Water test kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Filter | <input type="checkbox"/> | Net |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Substrate and décor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Book about bettas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PETCO Care Sheets: Water Quality; Nitrogen Cycle; Setting up a Freshwater Aquarium | | |

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Characteristics Breathe from the water’s surface with their labyrinth organ as well as through their gills
Will “flare” fins when threatened or disturbed
Will attack another betta; males have also been known to attack similar-looking fish with flowing fins (for example angels, guppies, and swordtails)

Habitat Maintenance Check filter, other equipment and water temperature daily
Test water quality weekly
Do complete water change for small bowls (less than 2 gallons) once or twice weekly; in larger aquariums, change 10–25% of the total volume of water every two to four weeks, or as needed

Compatibility Male bettas must be kept in individual tanks or be the only betta in a community aquarium
Do not keep males and female together unless both are ready to breed; remove female after spawning

- Signs of a Healthy Fish**
- Active and alert
 - Vibrant colors
 - Eats eagerly
 - Reacts aggressively to outside stimulus

Common Health Issues	Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
	Fin Rot	Frayed or disintegrating fins; the base of the fins usually reddens	Improve water quality; commercial treatments may be effective
	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
 - Labored breathing
 - Frayed fins
 - Spots or fungus on body or mouth
 - Listlessness
 - Staying at the bottom of the tank

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 *All About Bettas* by Walt Maurus
Aquarium Fish by Dick Mills
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.