

Danios

Brachydanio spp, Danio spp



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

A good fish for a beginning aquarist, danios are sometimes called “perpetual motion with fins.” Hardy and easy to feed, danios come in both short- and long-finned varieties.



Is a danio 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 an appropriate size aquarium.
2. Danios would be compatible with my other aquarium inhabitants.
3. I can commit to providing proper care for these fish.
4. A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for these danios.

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

Average Size 1 to 6 inches, depending on species

Life Span Up to 5+ years with proper care

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

Feeding Depending on species and size, feed small amounts once a day, no more than fish can eat in three to five minutes
Thaw frozen foods before feeding

Housing They require less space than saltwater fish (about one inch of fish per one gallon of water)
Provide plenty of substrate, rocks, 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"/> Appropriate food | <input type="checkbox"/> Filter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquarium cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Water test kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Net |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heater (If being kept with other tropical fish) | <input type="checkbox"/> Décor | <input type="checkbox"/> Airstone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water conditioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Air pump |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about freshwater fish or aquariums | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer | <input type="checkbox"/> Light |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PETCO Care Sheets: Water Quality; Nitrogen Cycle; Setting up a Freshwater Aquarium | | |

Danios

Brachydanio spp, Danio spp



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Characteristics Slender body, metallic sheen, short or long finned
Schooling fish; recommend keeping in schools of five or more; if kept in smaller schools, may harass tank mates
Zebra, gold, blue, and leopard danios all stay between 1–3 inches in length; giant danios grow up to 6 inches

Habitat Maintenance Check filter, other equipment, and water temperature daily
Test water quality weekly
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 Constant movement may irritate more sedate tank mates; keep with other similarly active species

Signs of a Healthy Fish

- Clear eyes
- Bright, even coloring
- Healthy appetite
- Clean in appearance

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 treatment may be effective
Ich	White spots appear on fins and body; fish rubs against hard objects or swims awkwardly	Quarantine fish immediately; use a commercial Ich remedy for at least two weeks

Signs of Illness

- Loss of color or appetite
- Erratic swimming
- Spots or fungus on body or mouth
- Frayed fins

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 *Aquarium Fish* by Dick Mills
Our Native Fishes by John R. Quinn
The New Aquarium Handbook by Ines Scheurmann

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.