

Freshwater Crabs

Includes fiddler and red claw crabs



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Small and fascinating scavengers, freshwater crabs are also escape artists capable of finding almost any hole in the hood of an aquarium.

Is a freshwater crab 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, escape-proof aquarium.
2. This crab would be compatible with my other aquarium inhabitants.
3. I can commit to providing proper care for this crab.
4. A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this invertebrate



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

Average Size 1 to 4 inches long

Life Span 2+ years

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

Feeding Make sure a small amount of food reaches the bottom of the tank; if unsure, drop sinking pellets into the tank at nights; alternate protein- and algae-based pellets
Thaw frozen foods before feeding

Housing Should be kept in an appropriate size aquarium with one square foot of bottom area per crab
Provide plenty of commercial décor, such as rocks, plants, and other hiding places
Water temperature may range from 70° F to 82° F

Choose tank companions carefully; some crabs and fish will be aggressive toward each other
Stable water quality, 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.

Recommended Supplies

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate size aquarium | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate food | <input type="checkbox"/> Filter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water conditioner and additive | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquarium cover | <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"/> Light | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about freshwater fish or aquariums | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PETCO Care Sheets: Water Quality; Nitrogen Cycle; Setting up a Freshwater Aquarium | | |

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- Characteristics** Active nocturnal scavengers; may eat snails
- Female fiddler crabs have two equal size claws; males have one small and one large claw that they frequently wave in jerky motions through the water
- Crabs can climb almost any surface, including airline tubing and intake tubes; secure all holes in aquarium hood to keep crabs inside
- All crabs molt; a crab lying on its back may be molting
- 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 inhabitants to the aquarium gradually
- Compatibility** No more than one crab per square foot is recommended
- Do not keep with fish that will harass or eat them, such as certain cichlids
- May catch and eat small fish, dwarf African frogs, and other tank mates that live or sleep on the bottom of the tank
- Signs of a Healthy Crab**
- Active scavenging
 - Bright, even coloring
 - Healthy appetite
 - Clean in appearance
- 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
- 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
- Maintain appropriate stocking levels and tank mates
- Sources** *Aquarium Fish* by Dick Mills
- Shrimps, Crayfishes, and crabs in the Freshwater Aquarium* by Uwe Werner
- 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.