

# Lobster (Cobalt and Black)

*Cherax Teniومانus/ Cherax Plebius*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

These freshwater true lobsters originated in western Australia and can reach a length of 15 inches. They can tolerate colder water temperatures. The cobalt lobster is also called a Marron.

### Is a lobster 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. The lobster I have chosen would be compatible with my other aquarium inhabitants.
3. I can commit to providing proper care for this lobster.
4. A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this invertebrate.

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

**Average Size** 15 inches long, depending on variety      **Life Span** Up to 5 years with proper care

**Diet** Pelleted fish food should be provided. Lobsters are scavengers and will eat almost anything they can grab with their claws

**Feeding** Feed as much fish food as needed for other fish in the tank and to allow some to remain on the bottom  
Lobsters are nocturnal and will feed at night

**Housing** Lobsters should be kept in an appropriate size aquarium for their size  
Lobsters typically need a place to hide, provide a cave or hiding rock  
Water temperature should range from 65° F. to 85° F.

Try to maintain Ph 7.5-10.5, as low Ph may cause their shell to soften

Use of an under gravel filter is not recommended as the lobster will burrow

You may consider place a layer of sand under a layer of pebbles to allow for burrowing

**Stable water quality, water temperature, and pH levels are critical to the health of this invertebrate. 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"/> Thermometer | <input type="checkbox"/> Net          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water conditioner                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Décor       | <input type="checkbox"/> Filter       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water test kit                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate   | <input type="checkbox"/> Air pump     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate commercial pellet fish food |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Airstone     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about lobsters or aquariums        |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiding place |

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- Characteristics** Lobsters molt and their natural coloring may get darker as they get older  
The colors of these lobsters are natural real colors  
Small growing lobsters can molt every 3-4 weeks, adults typically molt once a year  
Lobsters do not tolerate poor water quality
- Habitat Maintenance** Check filter, water temperature and other equipment daily  
Check water quality at least once a week  
Change 10–25% of the total volume of de chlorinated water every two to four weeks, or as needed
- Compatibility** Lobsters are opportunistic eaters, only house with large (4-5") fast fish  
Large slow fish, such as Koi, may be injured by lobsters claws  
All lobsters are aggressive and territorial and will use their claws appropriately so we do not recommend more than one to a tank
- Signs of a Healthy Lobster**
- Healthy appetite
  - Active movements
- 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 movement
  - Loss of appetite
- If you notice any of these signs, test water quality and improve as necessary**
- Preventing Common Health Issues** Avoid crowded conditions  
Maintain good water quality with regular water changes and adequate filtration
- Sources** *Aquariums for Dummies* by Maddy Hargrove and Mic Hargrove  
*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.