

# Platys

*Xiphophorus spp*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Sometimes called moons or moonfish, platies come in a large range of colors, fin variations, and markings – including the head and ears of a certain famous mouse on their tails!



### Is a platy 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 the appropriate size aquarium.
2. This platy would be compatible with my other aquarium inhabitants.
3. I can commit to providing proper care for this platy.
4. A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this fish.

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

**Average Size** 2 to 4 inches

**Life Span** 3+ years with proper care

**Diet** Food may be flaked, dried, or frozen  
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 plants for refuge, various species may prefer sparse or thick vegetation  
Water temperature should range from 72° F to 82° F, depending on species  
Provide proper filtration to maintain health

**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"/> 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 platies or freshwater aquariums   |   |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PETCO Care Sheets: Water Quality; Nitrogen Cycle; Setting up a Freshwater Aquarium |   |                                   |

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**Characteristics** Come in a wide range of colors, including red, blue, rainbow, black, Mickey Mouse, tuxedo, and gold, with a wag (black fins and tail) variety of each

Peaceful fish that prefer a degree of salinity in their water; adding one teaspoon of aquarium salt per two gallons of aquarium water is highly recommended

Livebearers can rapidly overcrowd a tank

Prefer well-planted tanks with lots of hiding spaces

**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** Do well with other peaceful, community species such as rainbows, danios, and some brackish water fish

- 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 treatments 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.