

## Adding a Betta to a Bowl or Aquarium

Now it's time to put your new Betta in their new home! Whenever fish are netted and handled, their protective slime coat is rubbed off. When adding fish to any aquarium, be sure to add additional water conditioner to help relieve stress. The best method to add new fish is to float the unopened bag of fish in their new home for 10 minutes to allow the fish to adjust to the water temperature. Then, open the bag and gently release the fish into their new home. The bag water may contain fish waste (ammonia), so try to avoid adding the bag water to the aquarium as much as possible.

## Feeding Your Betta

It is best to feed your Betta only enough food that it can eat in one minute. Feed your Betta once a day. Feed a floating pellet specially designed to meet the nutritional needs of Betta fish. If food is sitting on the bottom of the aquarium or bowl, the fish have been overfed. Overfeeding promotes fish waste (ammonia) to build up to a harmful level, and is one of the major causes of fish loss.

## Cleaning Your Fish Bowl

Dirty fish bowls not only look bad, they are also unhealthy for fish. By following a few simple maintenance steps your fish bowl will always look beautiful. The following steps are an ideal regiment for keeping your fish bowl looking great.

To keep your fish healthy, you should change at least half of the water in your Betta bowl or aquarium every 3-5 days. Follow these easy steps:

1. Fill a separate container with tap water. Mix hot and cold tap water until it is the same temperature as the water your Betta is swimming in.
2. Add a water conditioner to the tap water to remove the disinfectants that are toxic to your fish.
3. Remove half of the old water in your fish tank.
4. Refill your Betta bowl to the usual level with the treated tap water.

**Do right by your pet.**

**Do right by our environment.**

**Don't release unwanted pets.**

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# Caring for Your Betta



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## About Bettas

No other fish has increased in popularity faster than Bettas. Bettas are one of the easiest fish to care for. They come in a variety of colors, thrive in a small bowl, and make great additions to most community aquariums.

It is believed that Bettas were first discovered in Thailand over 100 years ago. In the wild, Bettas are normally found in still or very slow flowing waters with thick vegetation. In the wild, they can be seen nipping at the roots of plants to eat the small insects, crustaceans, and eggs of other fish. Because of this, it is sometimes believed that Bettas eat plants, but they are not herbivores or plants eaters.

One of the most unique features about Bettas is that they are “labyrinth fishes”. Labyrinth fishes have a unique ability to obtain oxygen from either the water or the atmosphere. To do this they periodically swim to the surface and gulp air using a special organ called the labyrinth organ, similar in many ways to our lungs. This unique feature allows Bettas to thrive in small bowls without any additional air pumps.

## Selecting the Container

Bettas will thrive in a small fish bowl or aquarium, but the larger the container, the better the Betta’s fins will grow and develop. If you decide on an aquarium or larger bowl, the water will need to be changed less frequently, and the Betta will have more room to swim around.

## What Else Do I Need?

Decorating your Betta home provides a hiding place for your fish during times of stress. You should only use decorations, such as gravel, ornaments, and plants, designed for use with fish. A small plant, either plastic or real, will help to duplicate a more natural environment for your Betta.

Make sure to purchase aquarium cleaner along with the container. Household cleaning products, including soap, are harmful to fish.

In addition, you’ll need to purchase a water conditioner, which will instantly neutralize the chemicals in tap water, making the water safe for your Betta. Tap water can be full of dangerous chemicals that can harm your fish, such as chlorine and chloramines. These are poisonous to Bettas.

And of course, don’t forget the fish food!

## Selecting your Betta

Bettas are available in many different colors, with long sleek fins or very wide crown tails. Take your time and select the fish that you like the best.

Bettas make a great addition to any community aquarium, provided no other male Bettas are added to the bowl or aquarium. Bettas are also known as Siamese Fighting Fish because of the aggressive behavior of males when two or

more males are placed together. Males are very competitive, flaring their fins and expanding their gills to show dominance in the presence of other males. This leads to torn fins and can cause extreme damage to both of the male Bettas. You should never place two males in the same container. Male Bettas are only aggressive with other male Bettas, and not with any other type of fish.

## Preparing Your Betta’s New Home

Find a location for your bowl or aquarium where it won’t easily get bumped or be disturbed. The location should not be in direct sunlight or near heating or cooling vents.

Rinse and clean your Betta container with tap water and aquarium cleaner. Clean both the inside and outside of the container, as well as the decorations you have purchased.

Prepare the water that will go into your Betta’s new home. Bettas prefer a temperature of 75 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Add the water conditioner, following the instructions on the label. When you need to add water to the container in the future, make sure to condition the water to ensure the water is safe for your Betta. Don’t ever add tap water without conditioning first.