

American Cichlids

Cichlidae

**FACT
SHEET**

Introduction and Origin

The American cichlid originates from three main areas, South America, Central America, and North America. There are many varieties from Convict cichlids, to Oscar Cichlids, to Flowerhorns. American Cichlids are

generally found in lakes, rivers and streams. They can also vary in size from the very small to the very big. They also

have a very aggressive temperament as with all cichlids.

**Did you know
American Cichlids
lay eggs?**

Diet, Water and Care

American Cichlids can be fed on a variety of different foods, but usually depends on the type you have. A Carnivorous fish such as an Oscar can be fed on protein pellets, small fish, blood worms, and insects. While other omnivore cichlids can be fed cichlid pellets, blood worms, plants, and insects. When you keep American Cichlids the pH-value in the aquarium should be between 6.5 and 6.9 and the dH between 0.6 and 1.2. This can be achieved by using cichlid buffer. The temperature of the water should be between 24 and 30 degrees Celsius. American Cichlids can tolerate some fluctuations in parameters. American Cichlids will spend a lot of their time in open water but they also need some protection. This can be provided with lots of rocks and driftwood. Fake plants are also ideal for providing protection.



Environmental conditions and Biological notes

American cichlids generally mix well together. They should not be mixed with other African Cichlids or community tropical fish. Some American cichlids such as Oscars, Flowerhorns and Red Devils should be kept on their own because they are extremely aggressive. American cichlids range in size from around 4cm to around 45cm. American cichlids breed by pairing up and laying eggs. Most look after their young but should be separated after a few days. Also if fed correctly their young can grow very quickly. Some cichlids such as Convicts breed every 6 weeks!

Above all, they are an excellent fish for people with large aquariums, and make a great fish for any hobbyist.

Further information on diet, hygiene & medication and much more is available from the team at Kellyville Pets.

African Cichlids

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Introduction and Origin

African Rift Lake Cichlids are some of the most colourful and breathtaking freshwater aquarium fish. They originate from the Lakes Malawi, Tanganyika and Victoria in Africa. The majority of African cichlids are from

Lake Malawi, with new species and sub-species discovered each year. This continued revision of the

classification of African cichlids can cause some confusion, with names periodically changing.

Did you know that African Cichlids keep their young inside their mouth?

Diet & Water

Many African cichlids are primarily herbivorous so their diet needs to contain a high percentage of vegetable protein. Variety is the spice of life and your fish will benefit from a range of different types of foods. You can try Frozen Mysis Shrimp or Brine Shrimp, Frozen Vegetable blends, and live Brine Shrimp as treats. The water from the African Rift Lakes where these fish come from is hard and alkaline. It is important that you replicate these water conditions in your aquarium. African Rift Lake Conditioner will help greatly in hardening your tap water and should be used instead of normal Aquarium Salt. Ideally the hardness should be 200-250 ppm. Crushed coral, calcium carbonate chips, or a mixture of these will result in a higher pH (or alkaline water). Ideally the pH should be 7.6 to 8.0.



Environmental conditions and Biological notes

The general rule when mixing African cichlids is to keep the sizes similar, although there are still no guarantees that your fish will live harmoniously. Cichlids are an aggressive group of fish, and you will need to take measures if you encounter aggression problems in the aquarium. This may mean something as simple as adding more fish, rocks or plants, or rearranging the decorations. Another thing is to try and keep cichlids from the same region e.g Just Malawi Cichlids. Most African Cichlids are mouthbrooders. Cichlids that are mouthbrooders usually come from Lake Malawi, Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika. For these species, rather than laying eggs on substrate, the female will hold the eggs in her mouth until the fry are born.

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