

Livebearers

Poeciliidae

**FACT
SHEET**

Introduction and Origin

The live-bearing family of fish called is Poeciliidae and is a large family, which includes all of the popular live-bearing fish, such as Swordtails, Mollies, Platies and Guppies. They get the name 'Livebearer' as they give birth

Did you know that Livebearers give birth and dont lay eggs?

to live babies. The difference in sexing is the difference in the anal fin. Males have a small spoke while

females have more of a fin shaped anal fin.

Diet & Water

Livebearers are Omnivores, meaning they require a good balance of meat and vegetation in their diet. They are not fussy with food; and will eat considerable amounts of any food, animal or vegetable offered. A well-balanced, varied diet is essential for the long-term health of this fish. A good flake food should be used only as a staple, with supplemental algae, live and frozen foods such as brine shrimp and bloodworms offered regularly.

With the constant rigorous breeding programs present with livebearers we find that livebearers do not tolerate fluctuations well. Sudden changes of temperature and pH profoundly shock many individuals. They will live in temperatures of 20 - 26 C, and at a pH of 7 - 8.0, with a small amount of salt added. Mollies and Swordtails prefer to inhabit slow moving waters that are slightly brackish, (this means slightly salty).



Environmental conditions and Biological notes

Livebearers are now available in most colours but the new strains are not as strong and disease resistant as their wild relatives. Avoid fast flowing water as they will tire and this can lead to disease outbreak. They are prolific breeders, and care must be taken to take into account the biological load that up to 80 active and rapidly growing juvenile fish can add. Parents however do not hesitate to eat their own young, so densely planted; fine leaved vegetation is a benefit. Angelfish, Tetras, Danios and most Gouramis are ideal tank mates for the livebearer family. Their beautiful bright colours and busy nature will add a splash of life to your aquarium without emptying the piggy bank.

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



Tetras

Characidae

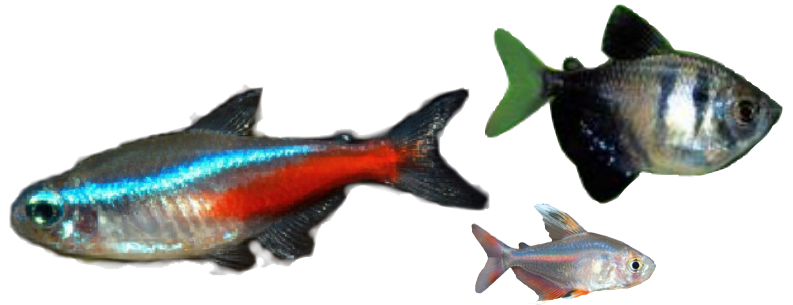
**FACT
SHEET**

Introduction and Origin

The Tetra is a fish that belongs to the family Characidae. This family of fish includes all of the tetras (neon, cardinal, congo etc), and such fish as piranha and silver dollars. Characins are found throughout South America

and Africa. In these areas, the tetra shoals in large numbers in slow moving jungle streams and pools, which

are thickly vegetated with fine leaved aquatic plants.



**Did you know
that Tetras
school together?**

Diet, Water and Care

In the wild, the natural diet of tetras is mostly a combination of small floating and aquatic insects. In captivity, it appreciates all forms of live, frozen or flake food offered, as long as it is in small pieces. Tetras rarely feed from food on the bottom of the tank; hence waste accumulation is common when feeding this fish. Ideally tetras should be kept at temperatures of 21 - 25 C, in soft acidic water. Water hardness of 1 - 2 , with a pH of 5.5 - 7. This can be achieved by using discus buffer, or by filtering the water through granulated peat. Tetras will not tolerate fluctuations, as such, is best introduced to a mature, cycled tank. Even though most tetras live in open water they still need some protected areas in the tank to be happy. These can be provided through patches of dense vegetation and placement of driftwood and bog branches.

Environmental conditions and Biological notes

Tetras should always be kept in a school, for they will become nervous and shy when kept individually or in pairs. Adult neons can reach 4.5 cm in length. Avoid housing tetras with any fish with a predatory lifestyle, or any fish that can swallow them whole. Their bright colours make them easy targets to follow. Most Characins are not bred easily. The Aquarist must be willing to spend a lot of time and have patience to breed them. The Tetras do not engage in any type of brood care, but simply deposit their eggs on plants or scatter them around the tank.

Above all, they are an excellent fish for a tropical community aquarium, if their tank mates aren't large enough to eat them.

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