

Axolotl Fast Facts!

- ◇ Live for approx. 10-12 years
- ◇ Grow to approx. 15-25cm
- ◇ Requires a 2ft minimum tank
- ◇ Their diet consists of meat based pellets and live food
- ◇ Originated from South-East Mexico

Checklist!

- ◇ Tank
- ◇ Filter
- ◇ Thermometer
- ◇ Décor
- ◇ Water conditioner
- ◇ Net
- ◇ pH test kit
- ◇ Ammonia test kit
- ◇ Nitrate test kit
- ◇ Nitrite test kit
- ◇ Axolotl pellets
- ◇ Frozen food
- ◇ Live food



Common Health Issues!

Fungal infection: As Axolotls are not protected by scales, they can easily cut themselves on abrasive surfaces within the tank and are left open to infection and can develop fungal skin infections if poor husbandry practices are in place and their tank is not properly cleaned

If uneaten or regurgitated food are left in the tank and your axolotl comes into contact with it, it can lead to a fungal infection

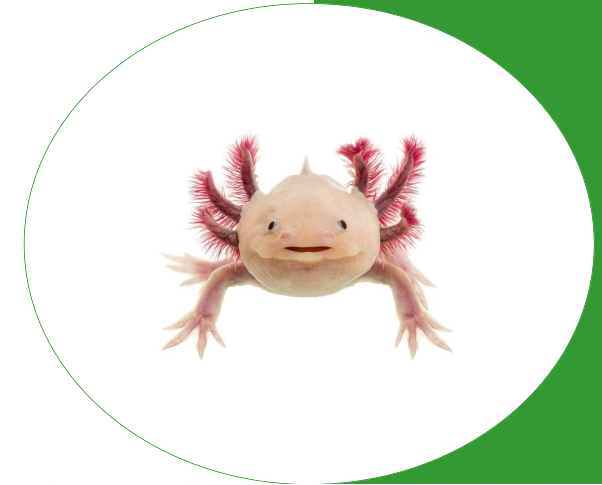
If you notice any of the following symptoms, please check your water quality and temperature

White film forming on tail or body (treat with pimafix or anti fungal remedy, gills appearing less 'fluffy' (check water quality)

If symptoms persist it is recommended to go to our recommended vet the Unusual Pet Vets based in Frankston

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Axolotl Care Sheet!



Bringing the jungle experience to you!

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Enclosure set up!

A 2ft tank will comfortably house up to 2 axolotls, allowing them room to swim around and exercise.

Fine sand should be used to avoid them swallowing pieces of gravel and developing digestive issues or leave the tank floor bare. Rocks and driftwood can be used inside the tank for hiding places and caves as long as they don't have any rough surfaces.

Live plants can also be used as long as they are strong and well planted.

Axolotls are nocturnal and have no eyelids to protect them from the bright light, so ideally they should be kept in normal daylight for 10-12 hours a day with adequate shelter provided.

Young axolotls require more oxygen so an air pump should be provided. As they mature their metabolism slows down and their oxygen requirement decreases



Maintenance!

Water quality is very important and is best maintained through regular testing and an aquarium filter.

Unfortunately, most filters will not pick up large solids, such as uneaten food or regurgitated food, so food waste should be removed from the tank after each feed.

The tank should be cleaned with a gravel siphon every two weeks, to ensure any pieces that the filter hasn't been able to pick up are removed. Uneaten food as well as waste contribute to high ammonia and nitrite levels. A pH range of 6.5-7.2 is the desired level, although closer to 6.5 is preferred.

As axolotls are a cold water species their preferred temperature range is between 14-18°C.

Axolotls should be handled carefully due to their soft skin, and care should be taken when netting them so they do not become entangled.



Nutrition!

Axolotls are carnivorous, requiring a meat-based diet. They should be fed a diet of live crickets, bloodworm, and axolotl pellets. Live feeder fish can also be fed on occasion and are a great source of nutrition and exercise.

It is recommended that axolotls are hand fed using tongs or large tweezers as this reduces the amount of waste and uneaten food in the tank. They should be fed 2-3 times a week, and preferably at night due to their nocturnal habits.

Axolotls eat their food whole so ensure that you are feeding them the correct size food and it isn't too big for them.

