

# SIAMESE FIGHTING FISH

AKA as the Betta!

These fish belong to the Anabantid family & share the common trait of being able to breath oxygen from the surface of the water.

They do this through a special organ called the Labyrinth Organ which is a modified gill that sits in a cavity above the gills. As the fish takes in air from the water surface, it passes into the labyrinth organ where oxygen is taken out – by using this they are able to survive in very small amounts of water.

**Aquarium setup** - We recommend that you keep your Betta in a generous sized setup.

Ensure you have a gravel substrate, some décor, heating, light & water conditioners. If you choose a small aquarium for your Betta, ensure that there is adequate space for them to move & turn around freely. You will need to carry out more frequent water changes & keep an eye on the water temperature as smaller bodies of water can fluctuate up or down rapidly. Temperature fluctuations can lead to stress related disease.

If you are keeping your Betta in a community aquarium always ensure that they are feeding enough. Males and females can be kept in community tropical tanks with other fish varieties but always remember – only one male per tank!

**Feeding** - Betta's are primarily carnivorous.

We recommend you feed them a specially formulated Betta pelleted or flake food & a frozen food. They will also thrive on live food such as blackworms.

Bettas are surface feeders so make sure that any excess food that sinks is removed from the bottom of your aquarium.

**Special considerations-** Fin rot is a common disease to watch out for with your Betta. This tends to occur when water conditions are poor. This can be treated by anti-bacterial medication, however, it can be prevented by regular water changes.

**Male Bettas must NEVER be kept together as they will fight to the death.**

**Water conditions-** Bettas like a temperature range of above 18°C. In cooler areas they will require a heat mat or heater in the aquarium.

We recommend that you maintain a pH of 7.0 & GH of 50-150ppm.

**The vast range of colours & beautiful finnage has made the Betta such a popular tropical fish to keep.**



**Veil Tail** - The most common type of betta. This fish displays a long tail (caudal fin), with an extended anal & dorsal fin which droops down.

**The Crown tail** -has become a very popular tail type variation & is sometimes referred to as the Fringetail. The rays are extended to altering degrees on all fins, which gives the fish a spiky or "crown like" appearance.



**Delta tails, Half Moon & Full Moon** - These Bettas feature a tail that displays a 180 degree spread when flared, creating a "D" shape with the caudal fin.



**Short Fin** - This Betta has long ventral fins, a pointed anal fin & a small caudal fin. It is subtle in colour.

