

arowana

care sheet



The arowana is a long, sleek, streamlined fish of great beauty with a unique character. Arowanas are large and often aggressive with the potential for rapid growth. Many believe that arowanas bring good luck and fortune.

facts

includes:	arowana species
average adult size:	up to 2 feet, depending on species
average life span:	depends on species
diet:	carnivore
minimum aquarium size:	150+ gallons, depending on species
water temperature:	72 to 82°F



Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, refer to the Sources section or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.

diet

A well-balanced arowana diet consists of:

- Provide pellets designed for surface-feeding carnivorous fish.
- Live or frozen fish and insects, krill, worms and shrimp.
- Avoid insects or inverts with sharp or very hard shells for juvenile arowanas.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your arowana:

- These fish are surface feeders often gliding just below the water's surface.
- Feed young fish 2 to 3 times a day, adults once a day; feed only what they can eat in 1 to 2 minutes.
- Thaw frozen foods before feeding.

housing

- Keep in an appropriately sized aquarium; the arowana is a surface-swimming fish, so width and length of the tank are more important than height. Arowanas are avid jumpers, so be sure to have a tight-fitting aquarium hood. Arowanas are more sensitive to nitrites than other fish, so provide proper filtration and perform 10 to 20% water changes as needed.
- Stable water quality and parameters are critical to the health of aquatic life. If you are unsure of your water quality, Petco provides free water testing.

characteristics

- Arowanas have mandibular barbels or whiskers that are used to sense movement on the water's surface.
- Known for jumping out of tanks that do not have a secure top; in the wild, arowanas will jump out of the water to grab prey.

habitat maintenance

Daily - Check filter, water temperature and other equipment.

Weekly - Check water quality at least once a week.

Monthly - Change 10 to 20% of the total volume of water every week if necessary. Otherwise, change 25% of the total volume of water every 2 to 4 weeks.

compatibility

Adult arowanas are best kept alone because of their size and requirements. If housed with other tank mates, they must be large enough not to be swallowed whole by the arowana and must not occupy the upper section of the tank. Most bottom dwellers are tolerated; other aggressive fish may ruin the long flowing fins of the arowana.

signs of a healthy fish

- Clear eyes
- Eats vigorously
- Swimming at the top of the aquarium
- Colors should be bright and shiny

Avoid overcrowded conditions, as they are a major cause of stress and disease. Maintain good water quality with regular water changes and adequate filtration.

red flags

- Loss of color or appetite
- Spots or fungus on body or mouth
- Cloudy eyes or pop-eye
- Elevated scales
- Frayed or discolored fins
- Listlessness or bottom dwelling
- Labored respirations
- Erratic swimming
- Weight loss
- Bloating

If you notice any of these signs, test water quality and improve as necessary.

common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Fin rot	Frayed or disintegrating fins; the base of the fins usually reddens.	Improve water quality; consult your aquatic veterinarian for treatment.
Fungus	White cottony growth and/or discoloration of the eyes.	Quarantine fish; use a commercial antifungal remedy as directed.
Bacterial infections	Cloudy eyes, open sores and/or reddening of the skin.	Improve water quality; use a commercial antibacterial remedy as directed.
Ich	White spots appear on fins and body; fish rubs against hard objects or swims awkwardly. Rapid respirations.	Quarantine fish immediately; use commercial ich remedy as directed.

shopping list for needed supplies

- Appropriately sized aquarium
- Appropriate food, dry and frozen
- Décor
- Water conditioner
- Filter
- Water test kit
- Full spectrum lighting
- Net
- Thermometer
- Freshwater substrate
- Heater
- Airline tubing
- Airstone
- Air pump
- Book about arowanas

sources

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on arowanas and the variety of private brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All private brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all aquatic life are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as *Atypical Mycobacterium* and *Salmonella*, always wash your hands before and after handling your aquatic life or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of disease.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5, senior citizens and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing or caring for aquatic life and should consider not having aquatic life as a pet.

Go to [cdc.gov/healthypets](https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets) and [petco.com/caresheet](https://www.petco.com/caresheet) for more information about aquatic life and disease.

This care sheet can cover the needs of other species. Go to [petco.com](https://www.petco.com) for more information.

