

# freshwater

## semi-aggressive

### care sheet



Barbs and semi-aggressive tetras, such as the black skirt, Buenos Aires and serpae, should not be kept with other fish with long, flowing fins. These brightly colored schooling fish add movement and color to aquariums. Most species are recommended for beginning aquarists.

## facts

includes:	barbs and some tetra species
average adult size:	1½ to 5 inches long,, depending on species
average life span:	depends on species
diet:	omnivore
minimum aquarium size:	10+ gallons, depending on species
water temperature:	72 to 82°F depending on species, as some prefer temperatures outside these parameters



*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 freshwater semi-aggressive fish diet consists of:

- Flakes, pellets or freeze-dried.
- Treats include bloodworms or brine shrimp (frozen).

## feeding

Things to remember when feeding your freshwater semi-aggressive fish:

- Feed small amounts 1 to 2 times a day, no more than fish will eat in 1 to 2 minutes.
- Thaw frozen food before feeding.

## housing

- Keep in an appropriately sized aquarium; provide plenty of space for swimming and hiding places.
- 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

- Very active, most species will swim in the middle to lower levels of the aquarium.
- Feel most comfortable in schools of five or more of the same species; odd numbers are recommended to prevent pairing.
- Can be aggressive if kept singly or in pairs.

## habitat maintenance

**Daily:** Check filter, water temperature and other equipment.

**Weekly:** Check water quality at least once a week.

**Monthly:** Change 10 to 25% of the total volume of water every 2 to 4 weeks or as needed.

Introduce new inhabitants to the aquarium gradually.

## compatibility

- Check Petco's Freshwater Compatibility Care Sheet for species specific information.

## signs of a healthy fish

- Clear eyes
  - Eats vigorously
  - Swims actively
  - Regular breathing
- Avoid overcrowded conditions, which 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
- Listlessness
- Labored respiration
- Cloudy eyes
- Weight loss
- Bloating
- Frayed fins

*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 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 respiration.	Quarantine fish immediately; use a 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 freshwater semi-aggressive fish

## sources

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on freshwater semi-aggressive fish 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](http://cdc.gov/healthypets) and [petco.com/caresheet](http://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](http://petco.com) for more information.

