

# rainbow fish

## care sheet



Rainbows are a group of freshwater fish originating in Australia and Southeast Asia. This long-established favorite is tolerant of most foods and conditions. These peaceful schooling fish dwell in the middle or upper levels of the aquarium.

## facts

average adult size:	1 to 6+ inches long,, depending on species
average life span:	depends on species
diet:	omnivore
minimum aquarium size:	20+ gallons, depending on species
water temperature:	72 to 82°F depending on species, as some prefer temperatures outside these parameters



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**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.

**diet**

- A well-balanced rainbow fish diet consists of:
- Flakes, pellets, frozen or live food.
  - Vary diet to ensure proper nutritional balance.

**feeding**

Things to remember when feeding your rainbow fish:

- Depending on species and size, feed small amounts 1 to 2 times daily, no more than fish can eat in 1 to 2 minutes.
- Thaw frozen food before feeding.

**housing**

- Keep in an appropriately sized aquarium; provide plants, rocks, caves and décor for hiding places and plenty of room for movement.
- 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**

- Males and mature fish are generally more intensely colored.
- Juveniles of both sexes are often very different in coloring from adults and can appear like separate species.
- Rainbows are very active and require plenty of space.
- Feel most comfortable in schools of five or more of the same species; odd numbers are recommended to

prevent pairing.

**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.

**signs of a healthy fish**

- Clear eyes
- Eats vigorously
- Fins completely intact and undamaged

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/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 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 rainbow fish

## sources

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on rainbow 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** and **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** for more information.

