

shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriate size aquarium
- appropriate food, dry and frozen
- décor
- water conditioner
- aquarium salt
- filter
- water test kit
- full spectrum lighting - T5 recommended
- net
- thermometer
- protein skimmer
- marine substrate
- heater
- hydrometer
- airstone
- air pump
- book about puffers

Sources

Ask an associate about Petco's selection of books on Puffers and the variety of Petco Brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All Petco Brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

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

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for aquatic life and should consider not having aquatic life as a pet. Go to the Centers for Disease Control at cdc.gov/healthypets/ for more information about aquatic life and disease. Go to petco.com/caresheet to download other helpful Care Sheets.

This care sheet can cover the needs of other species. See petco.com for more information.

Puffers

includes marine puffer species



Care Sheet

Puffers are scaleless fish that can tolerate some variation in their environment. They sometimes have spines or burrs on their skin, but are most remarkable for their ability to double or triple in size by taking in air or water rapidly. Not recommended for reef aquariums.

Puffers facts:

average adult size:	3 to 25 inches long, depending on species
average life span:	depends on species
diet:	carnivore
minimum aquarium size:	50+ gallons, depending on species
water temperature:	72-82°F
salinity level:	1.020-1.026



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

Care Sheet

Puffers

includes marine puffer species



Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.

diet

- A well-balanced Puffer diet consists of:
- Chopped squid, clams, shrimp and krill.
 - Carnivorous frozen food.
 - Vary diet to ensure proper nutritional balance.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your Puffer:

- Feed three to four times a week.
- Feed live food in the beginning, gradually enticing them to eat other foods.
- Thaw frozen food before feeding.

housing

- Keep in an appropriate size aquarium; provide rock and decor for hiding places and plenty of room for movement.
- **Stable water quality, water temperature, and pH levels are critical to the health of the aquatic life. If you are unsure of your water quality or pH levels, Petco provides free water testing.**

characteristics

- Have fused teeth in beak-like jaws.
- Inflate when they feel threatened; can be aggressive.
- Inhabit the middle levels of the aquarium.

habitat maintenance

Daily: check filter, water temperature and other equipment.

Weekly: check water quality at least once a week; check salinity levels at least twice a week.

Monthly: change 10-25% of the total volume of water every 2-4 weeks, or as needed.

Introduce new inhabitants to the aquarium gradually.

compatibility

Compatible with dwarf and large angelfish, blennies, cardinalfish, clownfish, damselfish, eels, gobies, hawkfish, lionfish, scats and tangs.

signs of a healthy fish

- Eats vigorously
- Clear eyes
- Active swimming
- Regular breathing

Avoid overcrowded conditions; 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
- spots or fungus on body or mouth
- listlessness
- labored breathing

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.
Marine Ich	Cysts on fins, gills, and skin; labored breathing, excess skin mucus or pale skin.	Treat entire aquarium with a commercial parasite remedy and improve water quality; freshwater dips can dislodge the parasites.