

# foxface and rabbitfish care sheet



Foxface and rabbitfish are peaceful, colorful fish that love to eat algae. They have venomous dorsal and anal fins that can deliver a painful sting. Care must be taken maintaining an aquarium that contains them. Recommended for experienced marine aquarists.

## facts

average adult size:	6 to 15 inches long, depending on species
average life span:	depends on species
diet:	omnivore
minimum aquarium size:	75+ gallons, depending on species
water temperature:	72 to 78°F
specific gravity:	1.020 to 1.025



**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 foxface and rabbitfish diet consists of:
  - Commercial algae sheets
  - Marine flakes or pelleted herbivore food
  - Mysis shrimp and brine shrimp (frozen)

## feeding

Things to remember when feeding your foxface or rabbitfish:

- Algae or algae sheets should always be present in the aquarium (attach to the side of the aquarium with a clip).
- Feed other foods 1 to 2 times daily, no more than fish will eat in 1 to 2 minutes.
- Thaw frozen food before feeding.

## housing

- Keep in an appropriately sized aquarium; provide plants, rock 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.**

## normal behavior

- Peaceful except when kept with another of its own species.
- Reef safe when fed regularly; may nip at large polyp stony corals or soft corals.
- Will consume nuisance algae along with desirable algae.
- Known to control valonia algae.
- Can be kept with larger and more aggressive fish due to its ability to defend itself with its venomous spines.

## habitat maintenance

- **Daily:** Check filter, water temperature, specific gravity 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

- Compatible with dwarf and large angelfish, blennies, clownfish, damselfish, eels, gobies, groupers, hawkfish, lionfish, pseudochromis, puffers, tangs and wrasse.
- Check Petco's Marine Compatibility Care Sheet for more information regarding your specific species.
- Only keep one Foxface or Rabbitfish per aquarium.

## signs of a healthy fish

- Clear eyes
- Healthy appetite
- Bright, even coloring
- 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
- Erratic swimming
- Labored respiration
- Cloudy eyes
- Weight loss

## 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 respiration, excess skin mucus or pale skin.	Treat entire aquarium with a commercial parasite remedy and improve water quality; freshwater dips can dislodge the parasites.

## shopping list for needed supplies

- Appropriately sized aquarium
- Appropriate food, dry and frozen
- Décor
- Water conditioner
- Marine aquarium salt
- Filter
- Water test kit
- Full spectrum lighting
- Net
- Thermometer
- Protein skimmer (recommended)
- Marine substrate
- Heater
- Hydrometer
- Book about foxface and rabbitfish

## sources

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on foxface and rabbitfish 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 care needs of other species. Go to [petco.com](http://petco.com) for more information.

