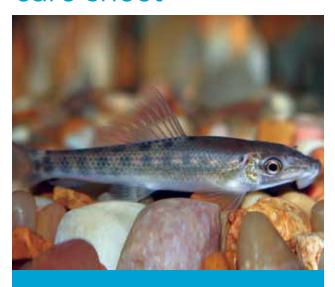
algae eater care sheet



Plecos and Chinese algae eaters are both well-known algae eaters. These vigorous algae eaters make excellent natural freshwater aquarium cleaners.

facts

includes: plecostomus and

Chinese algae eater

average adult size: 2 to 12+ inches long,

depending on species

average life span: depends on species

diet: omnivore

minimum aquarium size:

10+ gallons,

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a

depending on species

water temperature: 72 to 82°F





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.

Chinese algae eater

care sheet



diet

A well-balanced algae eater diet: consists of:

- Algae and sinking algae wafers.
- Supplement with raw zucchini as a treat once or twice a week Raw vegetables should be anchored near the bottom of: the aquarium.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your algae eater:

- Feed daily.
- Typically feeds at night.
- Some plecos require driftwood as part of their diet.

housing

- Keep in an appropriately sized aquarium; provide proper filtration to maintain health. Acrylic aquariums are not recommended for large plecos as they will scratch the acrylic. Chinese algae eaters prefer rapidly moving
- 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

- Spend most of the time on the bottom or hanging from the side of the aguarium.
- Attaches to glass, rocks and other hard surfaces with their mouths
- Plecos are very territorial towards other plecos; Chinese algae eaters are peaceful while young, but territorial when older.
- Will uproot or eat most live plants.
- Primarily nocturnal (active at night).

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

Can be kept with community fish; keep only one pleco per tank: limit the number of algae eaters as they mature. Check Petco's Freshwater Compatibility Care Sheet for more information regarding your specific species.

signs of a healthy fish

- Clear eyes
- Eats vigorously
- Attaches to the side of the aquarium or décor or moves along the bottom of the aquarium

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 ■ Cloudy eyes ■ Labored respirations ■ Frayed fins ■ Weight loss

common health issues		
Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
	or gray slime and appear cloudy, fish my appear off-	Improve water quality; consult your aquatic veterinarian for treatment.
Fungus		Quarantine fish; use a commercial antifungal remedy as directed.
Bacterial infections	and/or reddening of the skin	Improve water quality; use a commercial antibacterial remedy as directed.
	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

sources

Air pump

Book about algae eaters

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on algae eaters 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.

