

anemone

care sheet



Anemones are beautiful invertebrates found in tropical reefs. Their tentacles are venomous and stun potential prey that comes within reach. Many anemones have developed a mutually beneficial relationship with clownfish and with some marine crabs. Recommended for experienced marine aquarists only.

facts

includes:	condylactis, bubble, carpet, long tentacle, Haitian and sebae anemone
average adult size:	4 to 48 inches across, depending on species
average life span:	depends on species
diet:	photosynthetic and predatory
minimum aquarium size:	29+ gallons
water temperature:	75 to 82° F
specific gravity:	1.023 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.

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diet

A well-balanced anemone diet consists of:

- Supplement with small amounts of frozen food such as mysis shrimp, brine shrimp or silver sides; freeze-dried krill.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your anemone:

- Feed once or twice a week; larger anemones may need more frequent feeding.
- Thaw frozen food before feeding.

housing

- Keep in an appropriately sized aquarium; full spectrum lighting and proper filtration are essential. Live rock can provide a stable location for the anemone to attach to while also enhancing biological filtration. Most anemones require strong lighting combined with strong, but intermittent, water movement within the tank.

- 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

- Multiple tentacles arranged around the mouth.
- Avoid direct contact with anemone tentacles, as they are venomous. People with strong reactions to bee stings may react similarly to contact with anemone tentacles.
- Attaches to rocks and other surfaces with a specialized foot.
- Very sensitive to changes in their environment; require excellent water conditions to survive.
- Keep away from aquarium heater.
- Copper-based medications are toxic to anemones.

habitat maintenance

Daily: Check filter, water temperature and other equipment. Check specific gravity.

Weekly: Check water quality at least twice 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 specific species of clownfish; check species-to-species compatibility before purchase.
- Anemones may eat smaller fish, urchins, crabs and other roaming invertebrates.

signs of a healthy anemone

- Securely attached to chosen surface
- Responds to food or touch
- Healthy appetite

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 | upright position |
| ■ Loss of appetite | ■ Remains closed up for more than 24 hours |
| ■ No response to stimuli | ■ Abnormal discharge coming from mouth |
| ■ Shrunken tentacle | |
| ■ Does not maintain an | |

common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Little is known about diseases that affect invertebrates; as long as environmental conditions and food supplies are adequate, invertebrates are fairly resistant to disease.		

If you notice any of these signs, test water quality and improve as necessary.

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 anemones

sources

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

