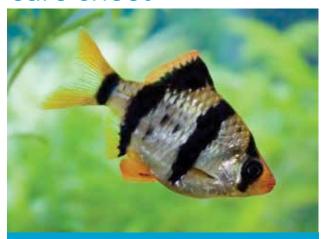
# freshwater semi-aggressive care sheet



Barbs and semi-aggressive tetras, such as the black skirt, Buenos Aires and serpae, should not be kept with other fish with long, flowing fins. These brightly colored schooling fish add movement and color to aquariums. Most species are recommended for beginning aquarists.

# facts

includes: barbs and some tetra

species

average adult size: 1½ to 5 inches long,,

depending on species

average life span: depends on species

diet: omnivore

minimum

aquarium size: 10+ gallons,

depending on species

water temperature: 72 to 82°F depending

on species, as some prefer temperatures

outside these parameters





**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.

# freshwater semi-aggresive

barbs and some tetra species

# care sheet



#### diet

A well-balanced freshwater semi-aggressive fish diet consists of:

- Flakes, pellets or freezedried.
- Treats include bloodworms or brine shrimp (frozen).

## feeding

Things to remember when feeding your freshwater semi-aggressive fish:

- Feed small amounts 1 to 2 times a day, no more than fish will eat in 1 to 2 minutes.
- Thaw frozen food before feeding.

### housing

- Keep in an appropriately sized aquarium; provide plenty of space for swimming and hiding places.
- 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

- Very active, most species will swim in the middle to lower levels of the aquarium.
- Feel most comfortable in schools of five or more of the same species: odd numbers are recommended to prevent pairing.
- Can be aggressive if kept singly or in pairs.

### 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

■ Check Petco's Freshwater Compatibility Care Sheet for species specific information.

### signs of a healthy fish

- Clear eves
- Eats vigorously
- Swims actively
- Regular breathing

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;<br>the base of the fins usually<br>reddens.   | Improve water<br>quality; consult your<br>aquatic veterinarian<br>for treatment.      |
| Fungus                  | White cottony growth and discoloration of the eyes.  | Quarantine fish;<br>use a commercial<br>antifungal remedy as<br>directed.             |
| Bacterial<br>infections | Cloudy eyes, open sores,<br>and/or reddening of the skin.  | Improve water<br>quality; use a<br>commercial<br>antibacterial remedy<br>as directed. |
| lch                     | White spots appear on fins<br>and body; fish rubs against<br>hard objects or swims<br>awkwardly.<br>Rapid respiration. | Quarantine fish<br>immediately; use<br>a commercial ich<br>remedy as directed.        |

#### shopping list for needed supplies Appropriately sized aquarium Appropriate food, dry and frozen Décor Water conditioner $\Box$ Filter Water test kit Full spectrum lighting Net Thermometer Freshwater substrate Heater Airline tubing Airstone

Book about freshwater semi-aggressive fish

#### sources

Air pump

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on freshwater semi-aggressive 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.

