

freshwater snails

care sheet



The unique characteristics and wide variety of freshwater snails provide an appealing addition to your aquarium. Freshwater snails feed on nuisance algae and are great for keeping your tank clean.

facts

includes:	mystery, inca, nerite and rabbit snail species
average adult size:	depends on species
average life span:	depends on species
diet:	omnivore
minimum aquarium size:	5+ 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.

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diet

A well-balanced freshwater snail diet consists of:

- Typically feeds off algae and excessive food or debris in aquarium.
- Can be supplemented with algae discs.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your freshwater snail:

- Snails will eat algae and excess food daily. Supplement algae-free aquariums twice a week.

housing

- Keep in an appropriately sized aquarium; a tight-fitting lid is necessary, as snails can climb out of the tank. Snails need calcium to grow their shells and may need to be supplemented weekly with calcium. High levels of freshwater salt can be harmful to snails.
- Use of copper-based medications is toxic to invertebrates.
- 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

- Snails leave a slime trail as they move on their muscular foot.

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

- Compatible with most freshwater fish. Do not keep with aggressive fish that may try to eat snails.

signs of a healthy invertebrate

- Active movement
- Healthy appetite
- Usually attached to décor, glass, etc.
- Operculum is open and intact

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 appetite
- Shell is pitted or broken
- Loose or missing operculum
- Listlessness
- Retreats into shell most of time

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

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.		

shopping list for needed supplies

- Appropriately sized aquarium
- Algae wafers
- Décor
- Water conditioner
- Filter
- Water test kit
- Full spectrum lighting
- Net
- Thermometer
- Freshwater substrate
- Heater
- Airline tubing
- Airstone
- Air pump
- Book about freshwater snails

sources

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

