

# gourami and paradise fish care sheet



Gourami and paradise fish are tropical freshwater fish that vary greatly in size, depending on species and feeding habits. Originating in Southeast Asia, they are ideally suited for community aquariums.

## facts

average adult size:	2 to 24+ 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



*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 gourami or paradise fish diet consists of:

- Flakes, pellets, freeze-dried or frozen.
- Avoid exclusively feeding one type of food to ensure nutritional balance.

### feeding

Things to remember when feeding your gourami or paradise fish:

- Depending on species and size, feed small amounts 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, rocks and décor for hiding places, caves and plenty of room for swimming.
- 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

- Gouramis and paradise fish have a labyrinth organ that allows them to breathe oxygen from the water's surface like a betta.
- Unique sensing and feeling organ in the pelvic fin.

### 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 same size or larger freshwater fish, especially peaceful bottom dwellers.
- May become aggressive toward same species in smaller aquarium.
- Check Petco's Freshwater Compatibility Care Sheet for species specific information.

### 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
- 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; the base of the fins usually reddens.	Improve water quality; consult your aquatic veterinarian for treatment.
Fungus	White cottony growth and/or discoloration of the eyes.	Quarantine fish; use a commercial antifungal remedy as directed.
Bacterial infections	Cloudy eyes, open sores, and/or reddening of the skin.	Improve water quality; use a commercial antibacterial remedy as directed.
Ich	White spots appear on fins and body; fish rubs against hard objects or swims awkwardly. Rapid respiration.	Quarantine fish immediately; use a 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
- Airline tubing
- Airstone
- Air pump
- Book about gourami and paradise fish

## sources

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on gourami and paradise 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](https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets) and [petco.com/caresheet](https://www.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](https://www.petco.com) for more information.

