

# large marine fish care sheet



Angelfish are identified by the distinctive spine on their gill cover. Tangs are often called surgeonfish because of the scalpel-like spine at the base of their tail. Triggers are known to exhibit a level of intelligence that is unusual compared to other aquatic life. Wrasses have a greater variety of shapes, sizes, colors and habitats than do most other fish groups.

## facts

average adult size:	6 to 24+ inches long, depending on species
average life span:	depends on species
diet:	omnivore
minimum aquarium size:	50+ gallons, depending on species
water temperature:	72 to 78°F, depending on species, as some prefer temperatures outside these parameters
specific gravity:	1.020 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.

### diet

A well-balanced large marine fish diet consists of:

- Flakes, pellets and frozen food.
- Algae sheets for angelfish and tangs.
- Vary diet to ensure proper nutritional balance.

### feeding

Things to remember when feeding your large marine fish:

- Feed 1 to 2 times daily; some species need 2 to 3 feedings per day.
- Thaw frozen food before feeding.

### housing

- Keep in an appropriately sized aquarium; provide rock and décor for hiding places and plenty of room for movement.
- Live rock can provide a natural food source while also enhancing biological filtration.
- **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.**

### normal behavior

- Angelfish can be territorial; tend to inhabit the middle and lower levels of the aquarium.
- Some tangs are solitary and territorial, may be aggressive to new aquarium inhabitants.
- Some tangs, such as yellow tangs, may be kept in schools of 3 or more in odd numbers.
- Some triggerfish may be aggressive towards each other and other tank mates.
- Many wrasses like to bury themselves in the substrate at the bottom of the tank at night.

### habitat maintenance

- **Daily:** Check filter, water temperature, specific gravity 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 the Petco Marine Compatibility Care Sheet for detailed information for each large marine fish species.

### 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

### 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.
Marine ich	Cysts on fins, gills and skin; labored respiration, excess skin mucus or pale skin.	Treat entire aquarium with a commercial parasite remedy and improve water quality; freshwater dips can dislodge the parasites.

*If you notice any of these signs, check 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 large marine fish

## sources

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on large marine 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](http://cdc.gov/healthypets) and [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet) for more information about aquatic life and disease.

This Care Sheet can cover the care needs of other species. Go to [petco.com](http://petco.com) for more information.

