



welcome
to the family



COMPANION ANIMAL PET PARENT STARTER GUIDE

Exclusive savings and resources to help
give them all the care they need

Congratulations

on your new family member!



Adding a small pet to your household is an exciting, joyful time. They will charm you and entertain you endlessly. Their enthusiasm for even the most seemingly insignificant events is contagious. Pets remind us that happiness is meant to be shared. They change our lives and steal our hearts.

At Petco, we have **more than 50 years of service** to pet parents. Because our *only* focus is on pets, we're committed to doing all we can to get to know you and your pet. We do this by staying true to our commitment to provide the right products, services, advice and experiences that keep pets physically fit, mentally alert, socially engaged and emotionally happy. Everything we do is guided by our vision:

Healthier Pets. Happier People. Better World.™

We know that navigating the world of pet supplies in the midst of the excitement of welcoming a new pet can be a bit overwhelming. That's why we've developed this simple guide to help you get the things you need for a happy, healthy pet.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Weston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad Weston
Chief Executive Officer

“animals are
such agreeable
friends. **they ask
no questions.
they pass no
criticisms.**”

—George Elliot



24/7 online resources

petco.com/newpetcenter for articles and videos to welcome your new pet

community.petco.com to connect with other pet parents

petco.com/events to stay up to date on free, fun and big events near you



aquatic life



Environment

- Aquarium and stand: depending on size of tank (note: each gallon of water weighs 8.36 lbs.)
- Filtration: ask a store partner to find out which filter is right for your aquarium
- Lighting/hood
- Thermometer and heater: recommended 3-5 watts per gallon, depending on size of tank
- Water, water conditioner and water supplements
- Water test kit/Test strips
- Gravel/sand, décor and live or plastic plants: personalize your tank and give your new fish plenty of places to hide to help them feel safe



Nutrition

- Dry and frozen food
- Freeze-dried treats



Aquarium maintenance equipment

- Gravel vacuum and water change bucket
- Algae scrubbing pad/tools



Saltwater tools and supplies

- CaribSea sand
- Marine salt mix or Imagitarium ocean water
- Hydrometer

Go to petco.com/fish for more information about setup, success guides and care sheets for your fish.



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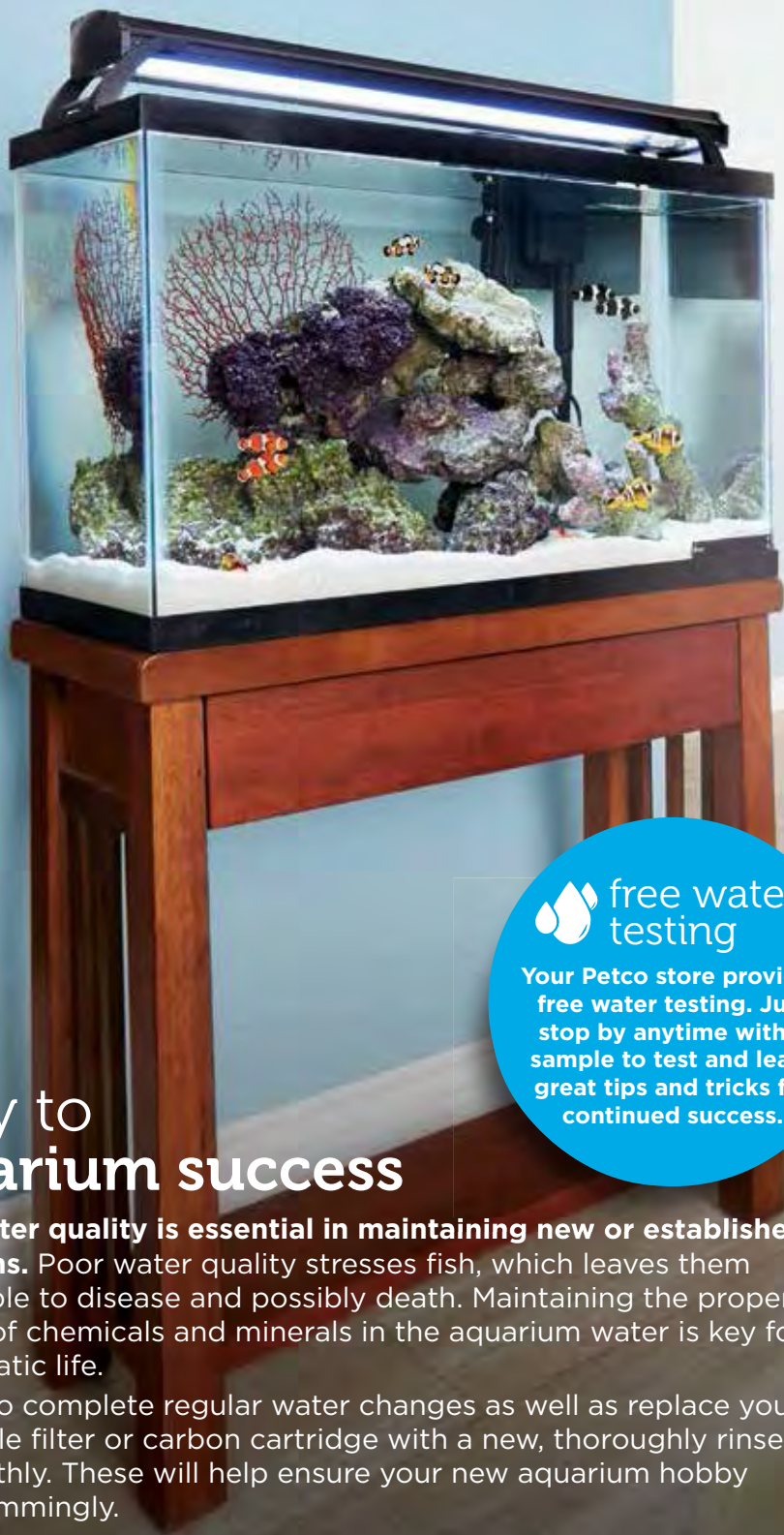
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creating a whole new world— setting up your new aquarium

An aquarium with a **variety of different fish** can be a beautiful addition to your home. Fish make wonderful, colorful pets and are relatively easy to care for as long as their pet parents are knowledgeable and diligent. With a little preparation, the right **supplies and regular maintenance**, your fish can live happy, healthy lives.



a key to aquarium success

Good water quality is essential in maintaining new or established aquariums. Poor water quality stresses fish, which leaves them susceptible to disease and possibly death. Maintaining the proper balance of chemicals and minerals in the aquarium water is key for your aquatic life.

Be sure to complete regular water changes as well as replace your disposable filter or carbon cartridge with a new, thoroughly rinsed one monthly. These will help ensure your new aquarium hobby goes swimmingly.



free water
testing

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free water testing. Just
stop by anytime with a
sample to test and learn
great tips and tricks for
continued success.

maintaining a flourishing aquarium



Fish have very distinct personalities. As a pet parent, you'll want to consider the different temperaments of your fish when socializing your tank. Keep these tips in mind to make sure your aquarium is a happy, peaceful place.

- ✓ When planning the amount of fish you want in your aquarium, **follow the inch of fish per gallon ratio** and take into account their adult size to avoid overcrowding.
- ✓ **Make sure that the species in your tank are compatible** before introducing them to each other.
- ✓ Depending on the species and size of the fish in the aquarium, you may want to **separate aggressive carnivores** from other fish that are not of the same size or temperament.
- ✓ Different fish prefer specific areas in the aquarium. Some fish eat at the top while others prefer the mid-level of the tank, and some choose to lay low at the bottom of the tank. Balance these levels to reduce competition for space.
- ✓ Decorating the landscape inside your tank is not only fun, but it also provides hiding places and shelters for your fish to explore.

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reptiles



Environment

- Terrarium with secure top
- Lighted heat source and dome fixture
- UVB light source as needed; please discuss species requirements with a Petco partner or your veterinarian
- Timer
- Under-tank heat mat
- Thermometer and humidity gauge
- Substrate/bedding
- Décor: plants, hideaways, logs or rocks
- Misting bottle
- Shallow food and water dish (if applicable to species of reptile)



Feeding & nutrition

- Vita-Bugs, crickets and mealworms as needed (if applicable to species of reptile)
- Vitamin and/or mineral supplement for dusting crickets or vegetables
- Feeding tongs or other tools for feeding



Additional supplies

- Cleaning supplies
- Carrying container for travel or habitat cleaning

Go to petco.com/pet-care-resource-center or ask a store partner for more information about setup and care for your new pet.

cool companions, great pets



There are many types of reptiles, amphibians and arachnids that make great pets—including snakes, frogs, turtles, lizards and more. To help keep them happy and healthy, it is important to ensure their habitat fits their lifestyle needs from desert to tropical to temperate setups. Provide variations of heated spaces since reptiles regulate their body temperatures from external sources.

The best way to help make sure your reptile is happy and healthy is to:

- ✓ Keep the heating, lighting and humidity levels applicable to their species
- ✓ Ensure that the size and shape of their habitat (or aquarium) reflects your reptile's lifestyle needs
- ✓ Provide the proper substrate (materials for the floor of their habitat), a hiding place, burrow or climbing material, depending on the pet type

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small animals



Environment

- Habitat appropriate for animal type
- Bedding
- Water bottle
- Food dish
- Hideaway place
- Litter and litter box (ferrets and rabbits)
- Exercise wheel (hamsters, mice and rats)
- Hammock (ferrets, rats, chinchillas and other species)
- Dust bath and dust (chinchillas and hamsters)
- Chew sticks/chew toys (if applicable)
- Toys
- Hay racks (rabbits, guinea pigs and chinchillas)
- Timothy Hay (guinea pigs, rabbits and chinchillas)
- Alfalfa Hay (guinea pigs, rabbits and chinchillas under 7 months of age)



Feeding & nutrition

- Food
- Treats
- Vitamin C supplement or Vitamin C-enriched food/treats (guinea pigs)



Additional supplies

- Grooming maintenance supplies
- Cleaning supplies (non-toxic)
- Carrying container for travel

Go to [petco.com/pet-care-resource-center](https://www.petco.com/pet-care-resource-center) or ask a store partner for more information about setup and care for your new pet.

small pets, big personalities



Small animals make great pets —they are cute, cuddly, active, social and friendly. To help keep them healthy and entertained, it is important to ensure their habitat has ample room to roam, is properly cleaned every week and has plenty of toys and chews for stimulation.

The best way to help make sure your small animal is happy and healthy is to:

- ✓ Make sure you have a properly sized habit and appropriate bedding for burrowing or making a nest to sleep in.
- ✓ Provide fresh, clean water and nutritious, species-specific food.
- ✓ Keep them active with toys, treats and a variety of interactive activities. Chews are vital for small animals whose teeth grow continuously.

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birds



Setting up the habitat

- Habitat appropriately sized for bird type
- Habitat liner and/or bird litter
- Food and water dish or dispenser
- Different diameter perches
- Habitat cover for bedtime
- Toys
- Hides and ladders



Feeding & nutrition

- Food
- Cuttlebone and holder
- Mineral supplements
- Millet and treats



Additional supplies

- Grooming (birdbath or birdbath spray)
- Cleaning supplies (non-toxic)
- Carrying container for travel

Go to petco.com/pet-care-resource-center or ask a store partner for more information about setup and care for your new pet.

beautiful feathered friends



Birds are very intelligent and social animals; they also love to play. To keep them happy and entertained, it is important to ensure their habitat has ample room to roam, is properly cleaned every week and has plenty of toys to keep their minds active and stimulated.

The best way to make sure your bird is happy is to:

- ✓ Place their habitat in an area of the home that has activity and is easy to interact with, as they like to watch and be part of family life.
- ✓ Provide a species-specific diet and healthy treats.
- ✓ Trade out toys each week and provide perches with different textures to keep them from getting bored.

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