

# BETTA CARE GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION

If ever a fish has enlivened the imagination, amazed its beholders, thrilled its audience, and surpassed all other fishes in popularity, it is the *Betta splendens* - better known as the Siamese fighting fish.



## HISTORY

Interest in the betta has lasted for more than 150 years. They can be found in ponds, ditches, rice paddies, and sluggish little streams in Thailand and Malaysia. It was not until 1927 that the first brightly-hued, flowing-finned Siamese fighting fish as we know today arrived in the United States.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The water conditions needed to maintain a betta is far less rigid than that required for many other species. In a community aquarium, the betta is likely to be picked on. Some fish will nudge it along to get it going. Others find its long fins a good target for an occasional nip. This is why, if at all possible, bettas should be separated not only from each other, but from almost all other fishes as well. Confining a betta in a small bowl or allowing it to move freely about in a small aquarium is a matter of individual preference. The betta could not care less. It goes without saying that the water should be clean and clear, and that all pieces of uneaten or decaying organic matter should be removed. If this is neglected, a general decline and eventually disease can be expected. Hagen's **Fish Bowl Cleaner** is a product that can be used in between water changes to prevent the water from becoming toxic. 1/2 water changes should be performed weekly. Remember to add **AquaPlus** to your tap water to eliminate chlorine, chloramine, and neutralize heavy metals. Temperature plays an important part in maintaining bettas properly.



Since these fish come from tropical climates, they should be given the warmth they require. The minimum temperature should be 76 F. Below this, the betta is sluggish. Often his colors are dull. His spirit wanes and so does his appetite. The betta's life span is short compared to most fish. At two years, the betta is beyond its prime. If it lives for more than three years, it is, indeed, an old fish.



## FEEDING REQUIREMENTS

Food is of utmost importance with the betta. This fish is a meat eater, definitely carnivorous. In the betta's home waters, food consists in great part of mosquito larvae and pupae. Prepared dry fish preparations can be fed. Choose one whose content is high in protein such as **Nutrafin Betta Food** or **Nutrafin Max Color Enhancing Betta Flakes**. Each one contains the best raw ingredients that bettas readily accept. Feed your betta every second day, two flakes in uncrushed flake form. After 15 minutes, remove any uneaten food with a net.



Good luck with your new betta  
from the staff at

