



Wet Pets N Critters

Betta Splendens Care Guide

Betta Splendens (Siamese Fighting Fish) are one of the most beautiful freshwater fish available. Male Bettas are colorful and graceful, but they are aggressive toward other males, which is why they are called “fighting fish.”

Bettas are hardy and can breathe air from the surface. They come in a wide range of colors, including blue, green, red, white, black, purple, and gold.

Feeding

Feed your Betta **1–2 pellets per day**. A Betta’s stomach is about the size of its eye, so it does not need much food. Overfeeding pollutes the water, which means you’ll need to do more frequent water changes to keep the tank clean.

For variety, you can offer frozen or freeze-dried brine shrimp, bloodworms, or other meaty foods **once or twice a week**. Never feed your Betta human food.

Housing

Bettas can live in bowls or small tanks, but they also do well in community tanks with compatible fish. Always ask before adding tank mates, as Bettas may fight or be picked on.

- A 1-gallon or larger bowl or tank is ideal.
- A cover is recommended to prevent jumping.
- A light is not required for Bettas. If your bowl or tank has a light, limit use to 8–12 hours a day to mimic natural day and night cycles. Bettas also need rest, so turn the light off at night.
- Add 1 inch of gravel for beneficial bacteria.
- **Not all tanks and bowls come with filters**, but a filter is helpful. Filters improve water quality by removing waste and keeping the water clear. If your setup does not have a

filter, you will need to do more frequent water changes to maintain a healthy environment.

- Always use water conditioner when adding new water.
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Water Changes

For bowls under 4 gallons:

- Change 1 cup of water daily.
- Do a 50% water change 2–3 times a month, cleaning the gravel as you go.

For tanks over 4 gallons:

- Change 10% of the water weekly.
 - Once a month, do a larger 1/3 water change using a gravel vacuum.
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Filter Maintenance (If You Have a Filter)

- Replace filter cartridges with charcoal every month.
 - Rinse sponge filters monthly in dechlorinated water and replace them every 3–4 months.
 - Clean filter parts every 3 months.
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Algae & Tank Cleaning

Use an aquarium scraper or sponge to clean algae from the glass.

Health Tips

Stress can lead to illness. Avoid overfeeding, overcrowding, and infrequent water changes. Keep only **one male Betta** per tank or bowl. Females can live together, but males should never be housed together.

Fun Fact

Male Bettas will flare their fins and gills when they see another male. You can use a mirror for a few minutes to watch your Betta's display, but do not do this too often.

