

BETTA (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 wasn't until 1927 that the first brightly colored, Siamese fighting fish as we know today arrived in North America.

Bettas have a special labyrinth organ that allows them to breathe air, this is how they are able to survive in areas where most other fish would die.

There are several different species but Paradise mainly only carries regular and crowntail. The biggest difference is their fins; regulars will have full fins whereas crowntails fins look spiky.



Crowntail Betta



Regular Betta

Bettas will do fine at room temperature as long as it does not drop below 15°C. They will also do fine at tropical temperatures of 78°F.

Bettas can be kept with other community fish in tanks 5 gallons or larger with a couple exceptions. Put them with peaceful fish around the same size. Avoid any fin nippers or aggressive fish, or fish that resemble a male betta (they may get confused and attack it mistakenly – guppies and some tetras).

FEEDING

Feed your betta a small pinch of betta food every second day, the amount they can eat in 2 minutes. Scoop out any leftover food and discard.

TANK SIZE & WATER CHANGES

Regular water changes are very important to keep water quality good and remove waste before the water becomes toxic. The smaller the betta tank the more often you will have to do water changes. Make sure to dechlorinate the water and let it get to room temperature before doing a water change. Adding beneficial bacteria should also be done, it will help keep the water cleaner for longer.

<u>Tank Size</u>	<u>Water Change</u>
1/4 Gallon	All once a week
1/2 Gallon	Half once a week
1 Gallon	Half ever 2 weeks

For larger tanks, 5 gallons and up and that have a filter, water changes can be done once a month. Changing 25-30% of the water as well as dechlorinating and adding beneficial bacteria.

CLEANING

When washing your betta's tank, use only warm water (soaps are very toxic to fish). If the tank is acrylic make sure to use a scrub pad that won't scratch it.