



Creatures Pet Store

***Betta splendis* (Siamese Fighting Fish)** **Betta care for small aquariums or bowls without filtration**

General Information: The Betta originated from Thailand, and lived in rice paddies, swamps, and other wetlands. Betta fish are part of the Labrynth fish family (family of fish that have an organ that permits them to breathe air), this is why the Betta may be kept in a bowl without aeration. This does not mean that they do not use their gills to breathe, nor does mean that a filter is not a good idea to aerate and filter the water. It does mean that a Betta can happily live out its lifespan of 2 to 4 years in a non aerated non filtered bowl when appropriate care is provided for this type of an environment.

Our 1st recommendation for proper care of a betta fish is to house the fish in an aquarium of at least 2 gallons with a low flow filter and live plants. If space is limited these fish can thrive in smaller aquariums providing you follow simple but frequent Betta care procedures as outlined below.

When a small aquarium or bowl is used without a filter, water changes must be frequent to maintain good quality water. See chart below

Aquarium/Bowl Size	Filtration	How much water to change	Frequency
1 liter (1/4 gallon)	None	100%	Every 3 days*
2 liter (1/2 gallon)	None	100%	Every 5 days*
4 liter (1 gallon)	None	100%	Every 7 days
2 Gallon	None	Alternate 50% then 100%	Every 7 days
2 Gallon	With filter	25%	Every 7 days

***Note:** The frequency may be lengthened to every 7 days when you know your gravel is well populated with nitrifying bacteria. This can be tested with ammonia & nitrite test strips. If the results are negative at days 3 & 5 as indicated in the chart above, then weekly water changes can be adopted. Continued weekly testing is recommended.

Cleaning Your non filtered Betta Fishbowl

1. The night before draw enough tap water to replace the old tank/bowl water, plus some extra to rinse the tank/bowl the fish is in, then add water conditioner. Ensure the water is close to the same temperature as the water the fish is currently swimming in. Place the water in the same vicinity as the Betta, to allow the water temperatures to equalize overnight.
2. Place some old tank water into a glass, leave an inch or two space, and add your fish to this water (a soft net can be handy).
3. Thoroughly swish remaining water and gravel, strain off water, repeat if required but only rinse with water treated with conditioner. Chlorinated tap water can kill beneficial bacteria living on the gravel.
4. Wipe down the insides of the tank with paper towel to remove any buildup if required.
5. Refill the tank with new water from step one, add appropriate amount of beneficial bacteria product like cycle or stability, and gently reintroduce the betta fish.

Proper Diet

Your Betta has been raised on a balanced combination of live, frozen and commercially prepared foods. Your betta should be fed on a regular basis once daily, 6 times a week, one day without food will clean out the fish and maintain a healthy feeding response. Uneaten food should be removed with a waste remover, or the water will pollute faster. 1 to 2 snails / half gallon may be added and will eat some left over fish food and algae.

The following is a list of foods you can feed your Betta:

- **Live Food:** Black Worms, Blood Worms, Earth Worms (small chopped pieces once a week), Brine Shrimp
- **Frozen Food Commercially Prepared:** Mosquito larvae, Shrimp (very small pieces once a month), Blood Worms.
- **Dried Food Commercially Prepared :** A quality betta food, 2 to 5 pellets daily, Zoomed, Hikari, Nutrafin, HBH, Omega One, NLS.

Ideal Water Chemistry/Temperature

- The ideal PH range of water is 6.8-7.0, but they can tolerate 6.5 to 7.5. Victoria's water is normally 7.0
- **Without fail** always use a water conditioner that removes chlorine and chloramines whenever adding or changing water. Seachem's Prime is one brand we stock and recommend.
- Always use the same source water, Victoria tap water treated with a conditioner is absolutely fine to use. If you decide to use R/O or distilled water ensure you add a product such as Seachem's "Replenish" to put back in the trace minerals and salts removed. Pure H₂O has little PH buffering capacity and it may leach minerals from your fish.
- Your betta's water should be between 74-80°F, your betta will be more active at higher temp range, a betta tank heater may be required when ambient temperatures are cool.
- **Aquarium salt:** used to increase osmoregulation, add essential electrolytes, improve gill function, and promote disease recovery (**Do not use table salt**).

DO'S and DO NOT'S

- **Do** change your betta's water according to the above chart.
- **Do** cover the tanks, or ensure the water level 1-2" from rim to reduce the possibility of jumping out.
- **Do** observe your Betta and watch for signs of early disease or stress.
- **Do Not** wash bowl or accessories with soap, or use chemical sprays or insecticides near your betta's bowl.
- **Do Not** put coins, metals, shells or sharp objects in your betta's bowl
- **Do Not** over feed, the number 1 killer of tropical fish in the home is over feeding.
- **Do Not** place your betta in direct sunlight, on a heater, fireplace, TV or speakers.

Supplies

** Necessary **	** Optional **
Minimum 2 litre container.	Live or artificial plants (see below for live plant ideas)
Food (live, frozen, or dried pellets) & Treats	Heater, if water is dropping below range.
Aquarium gravel	Mirror for exercise
Water conditioner & Beneficial bacteria.	Decorations
Container for water prepping.	Waste Remover
Net	Thermometer

Plants and Companion Animals

Live plants in the Betta bowl can assist with water quality and fish health. Betta bowls should use plants that require low levels of light. # 1, # 2 and # 3 can be uprooted from the gravel with each water change. # 4 prefers to be tied to a porous rock or water logged driftwood to root (# 1 may also be planted as # 4).

Ref #	Code	Description	Ref #	Code	Description
1	8021	Annubias nana or barteri	5	F120	Dwarf aquatic frog
2	70231	Hornwort-Ceratophyllum submersum	6	3518	Zebra snails
3	8089	Cryptocoryne wendtii or becketii	7	3918	Betta filtering clams
4	70552	Java fern tied to porous rock/wood	8		Some community fish when a filtered aquarium of 5+ gallons is used with a heater.

Here are a couple of Betta websites that you may want to check out for additional Betta care.

- <http://www.bettatalk.com/>
- <http://bettacare101.com/>