

Discus Fish



A Quick Guide!

Discus Fish Ownership

For anyone interested in designing an exotic aquarium, discus fish info is widely available in magazines, books and guides or on the Internet. Most of the discus fish info available online comes from people like you that took a special interest in these creatures and breed fish as a hobby. Therefore the discus fish info found online is the voice of experience assisting you in preparing the perfect habitat for your pets.

In case you need some very special discus fish info it is a good idea to ask advice from several sources. Check with a few discus fish info pages and see what solutions they offer and whether they are the same.

In case you find contradictory discus fish info, the best thing you can do is either check with a recognized discus fish info guide or book or talk to the vet. Health problems may sometimes be tackled differently, depending on the conditions that led to a discus form of disease.

Furthermore, discus fish information may prove useful in almost all the regular steps one should take in order to create a nice aquarium.

From filter and water nitration to choosing the best plants, discus fish info is a must, particularly since every breed of fish has its peculiarities.

What would it be like if you simply mixed different kinds of fish that are not used to share the same habitat?

Ignorance of discus fish info leads to your losing the fish and wasting lots of money; hence better start looking for documentation instead of guessing what to do next.



Discus fish health

Discus fish health is a highly debated issue on Internet forums, on chats and in special magazines. The problems appear due to the failure cases that many owners face because they don't know how to preserve their discus fish health.

The coordinates for perfect discus fish health are very simple and easy to follow: keep them clean, well-fed and loved and everything should work great.

Don't make the mistake of combining discus with all sorts of other species as they may not be compatible. The results of an unfortunate co-inhabitation may have severe effects on discus fish health as well as on that of the rest of your aquatic pets.

Discus fish health is just fine if you place them with fish smaller than themselves, on condition that these are not

catfish with sucker mouths. This species is dangerous for the discus fish health as they attach to their scales producing severe tissue injuries.

Some of the environmental discus fish health problems are sometimes solved by simply adding some medicine in the water, but this happens in the most fortunate of cases. This is why it is so important to prevent rather than to cure.

Discus fish health very much depends on nutrition; feed your discus enough protein and they will have all the energy necessary.

Furthermore, amino acids are also highly important, and they come from the meat you feed your discus. The only discus fish health problem that may arise here comes from over-feeding that may lead to water deterioration and the lowering of the standards in the living conditions.

Your discus fish health should be well protected if you have a very powerful biological filter in the aquarium and you perform regular water changes.

The most adequate method for water filtration and therefore preservation of discus fish health is by reverse osmosis.

This is possible with the help of the semi-permeable membrane inside the filter that allows only water molecules to pass through it. It removes minerals, trace and any other substance, producing pure water that is so necessary for your discus fish health.

A few minerals should be however added in the water to actually recreate the discus fish health-friendly

environment. Keep a watchful eye on everything that goes on in your small ecosystem as you're in charge.



Discus fish disease risks

Native from the Amazon River, yet successfully bred all over the world in aquariums, discus fish are not too fragile or sensitive creatures.

However, all breeders and owners should be aware of the risks of discus fish disease, as they are often exposed to various health problems because of improper care conditions.

Saying that breeders are most often the ones responsible for the discus fish diseases doesn't mean we're pointing the finger, this is the truth.

Improper care, poor or inadequate living conditions, co-inhabitation with other breeds are usually responsible for the various discus fish diseases.

The most common discus fish diseases are the ones common to fresh water fish in general. For instance the ammonia poisoning is a discus fish disease that appears because of improper nitrogen cycle in your aquarium.

Don't add tropical fish in the water until the ammonia has been eliminated in the water, and maybe the filters don't function properly. In order to avoid this discus fish disease, change the water regularly and avoid overcrowding the tank.

The symptoms of this discus fish disease include red and swollen gills and the fish staying at the water surface gasping for air.

Another discus fish disease that results from poor water quality is the Ich or the white spot characterized by the appearance of white spots on the fish body and fins.

The best way to fight this discus fish disease is by increasing the water temperature and administering medication available in any pet store.

Before adding the medication for this type of discus fish disease, take the carbon filter out as this may absorb all the useful substances. In case you want to bring other fish to the tank, make sure you use a quarantine aquarium in order to prevent any discus fish disease.

If the water temperature is not appropriate you expose your pets to oxygen starvation. A higher water temperature also requires an increased level of oxygen in the water.

Therefore, you can easily avoid this discus fish disease by taking care of the aeration level, speeding up the flow rate of the filters.

You may want to turn off the tank light for a while, as this also causes temperature to rise and exposes the fish to the risk of the oxygen starvation discus fish disease.

All in all, keep in mind that the proper temperature for the discus fish is 31 degrees Celsius at the maximum.



Keeping discus fish

The last decades have seen more materials written about keeping discus fish than about any other fish species. Anyone who thinks about keeping discus fish in the aquarium should get well informed before actually purchasing them.

They are considered royal fish native from the calm and warm Amazon waters that charm through their behaviour. Keeping discus fish requires some background knowledge about what to expect from them and what to offer to make such pets happy. Discus fish are considered creatures of changing behaviour that also manifest personality.

When keeping discus fish you'll notice that they are calm and shy in general, but when they make couples they often can become aggressive to their own kin and others due to breeding territory protection.

Keeping discus fish will bring lots of both challenges and rewards. First of all, within a group it is often common that the weakest discus be severely bullied, a treatment that can sometimes result in death. Therefore, keeping discus fish in groups of minimum six individuals is considered ideal. Thus you increase the confidence of the group members and lower the risk of "community" misbehaviour.

When keeping discus fish you have to respect their habits. For instance mating is a matter of personal choice when it comes to parenting. Therefore, arranged matches are not

to the like of the discus that are independent in their choice of a partner.

Keeping discus fish that go through the breeding process is best achieved in a separate tank especially prepared for the purpose.

In case you're keeping discus fish in couples together with the rest of your aquatic pets, you risk having some nasty violent behaviour because of territorial claims. Discus fish prepare the perimeter were they are going to have their babies by cleaning it first and defending it throughout the whole period.

Once you have fry (babies), you'll be surprised that discus feed their young alone. However, when keeping discus fish of such different ages together, it is good to assist the parents' effort by also giving some special food to the fry too such as baby brine shrimp.

After three or six weeks at the maximum, keeping discus fish together with their fry is not at all recommended. You should separate the fry and leave the exhausted parents recover. Use a special tank for the fry only and feed them at least three times a day to support the accelerated growth rate.



Breeding discus for beginners

More and more people take up the fish breeding hobby, which would explain the large number of materials and documentation sources that teach breeding discus for beginners. Whether you choose an online e-book or a guide you buy from the book shop, breeding discus for beginners may prove more easily said than done sometimes.

First of all, if you have no knowledge of the living conditions of the discus in the wild, the material about breeding discus for beginners should help you learn how to recreate the most close-to-natural environment you can.

In the same category of breeding discus for beginners falls the understanding of the feeding specificity. Normally you feed the discus frozen blood worms and shrimp, but you may learn that a bag of moss placed in the water will create a closer imitation of the Amazon, as the normal background of these creatures. Thus, breeding discus for beginners requires lots of detailed information and good will on the part of the apprentices.



Discus as a hobby

Just as dogs make great companions, discus fish make a great show. Breeding discus as a hobby has become so popular that aquariums all over the world have become the home of this king of the exotic species.

For some breeders, discus as a hobby means an immense satisfaction particularly when one manages to get some baby discus too. It is truly rewarding to see that what started with discus as a hobby has turned into a life time experience and a true friendship.

What is so special about discus as a hobby? Apart from the great beauty of these fish, discus are unique in their social and loving behavior.

Those who breed discus as a hobby will be more than surprised to notice that the discus show signs of connection to the environment outside the tank. For instance breeding discus as a hobby implies spending lots of time around the tank, cleaning, feeding or simply watching the discus.

They are said to recognize the owner in time and they can get as close to you as to eat out of your hand. When breeding discus as a hobby, some owners have noticed that the discus will watch you move around the room or even react to TV noise.

Apart from such social behavior, discus enjoy silence and a close community with other fellows from the same species. If you take discus as a hobby, you may want to take into consideration that they prefer living in close communities that is together with several other members.

The dominant discus would be the first to couple, followed by the others if proper conditions are met. Even if you breed discus as a hobby you may still have to separate the couples in a different tank allowing them to raise their fry.

For everyone who takes discus as a hobby, it is important that all the proper living conditions are kept under constant observation. You should not use for instance a too powerful lamp for your discus; as a hobby you'd like to keep them in the spot light, but this warms the water above the accepted level and reduces the oxygen quantity. There is a short step to take between breeding discus as a hobby and breeding them at a professional level, after all, discus require the same attention no matter your devotion. Even if you take discus as a hobby, you still have to pay attention to their needs all the time!

Resources

Hopefully you have enjoyed this short guide and the amazing photos!

If you are serious about owning or breeding discus fish we highly recommend that you visit

<http://tinyurl.com/DiscusFishGuide>

Rob Clark is a Discus Fish expert and you will greatly benefit reading his webpage!

Thanks

