

Oscar Fish Care – Quick Start Guide:



How big do Oscar Fish Get? How fast do they grow?

Oscar fish will grow to be 10 inches to 14 inches. An 18 inch long Oscar is fairly common in the wild or in a very large aquarium. They can grow up to an inch per month.

What size aquarium do they need?

Plan to buy at least a 90 gallon tank.

How long do Oscars live?

A well-cared-for Oscar will live for approximately 15 years.

How much does an Oscar Fish cost?

PetSmart has small Oscars for sale at \$11. If you buy them from an online seller, you will spend \$20 and up. Full grown “rescue Oscars” will be \$30 to \$75 and up. A rescue Oscar is one that has been given to the local fish store by the Oscar owner because they didn’t want them anymore, or the owner couldn’t keep them anymore.

Difficult or easy to keep?

Difficult. Oscars get big. They can be aggressive. A large (usually expensive) aquarium is a must. The aquarium will need to be cleaned a lot.

Are they peaceful or aggressive?

I would say aggressive. It kind of depends on the tank's setup and tank mates.

That said, they are very personable in their interactions with their owners. So much so that they carry the nickname "water dogs."

What type of fish can I keep with my Oscar?

Just about any large, South American, Tropical Fish will do. For example: Jack Dempsey's, Jewel Cichlids, Clown Loach or large Plecostomus fish types.

What do I feed my Oscar?

You'll want to feed them a well-rounded mix of various fish foods. They aren't picky so you can give them flake food, pellets, frozen and freeze-dried foods. You can also give them live foods like crickets and millipedes. About the only fish food not recommended are feeder fish because they often carry disease.

How often should I feed my Oscar Fish?

Adult Oscar fish should be fed once a day. Juvenile Oscars should be fed twice a day or more often.

The tendency by the owner is to overfeed because Oscars are good at begging for food. If you keep to recommended number of feedings per day, your fish will be healthy and happy.

How much food should I feed my Oscar?

Feed them the amount that they can eat in 5 to 15 minutes. Remove any remaining food after that amount of time.

What water parameters do they want?

They want the water temperatures to be about 78 degrees F (+ / - 3 degrees). They also prefer soft water (hardness of less than 30 PPM) and a pH of 7 or less.

This said, they are flexible in water parameters and can do just fine with normal tap water set at the proper temperature.

What type of substrate should line the bottom of the tank?

Medium to large gravel. Oscars like to dig, so you should avoid sand as that will make a mess and clog up the aquarium filters.

Can I keep two Oscars in the same tank?

First answer is "I wouldn't." There are too many potential problems, as you will see in the next two paragraphs.

The second answer is yes. It will depend on the personality of the Oscars. If one of them is unusually aggressive, then he or she will need to be kept by themselves because they might kill the other Oscar fish.

Another issue with keeping two or more Oscars is that you might end up with a male and female Oscar. If they mate, they could end up killing the other tank inhabitants to protect the eggs and fry.