

Quick start guide to breeding your own guppy strain



1. Set up two aquariums for your breeding trio of guppies (two females and one male).

10 gallon tanks will work. Add a pre-used filter, a heater (78 degrees F.), and preconditioned water to each. Add a plant (plastic or real) so the fry have a place to hide. For me personally, I would add a high quality UV sterilizer too. The second tank will be used to house the adult guppies after the female has given birth.

2. Decide on a the type and color strain you want to improve on.

For example when I bred guppies to sell I started with fish where the males had very large, all white tails. Unless you like challenges don't buy your guppies from a pet store. **Ebay has numerous guppy strains to chose from.**

3. Figure out the sex of your adult guppies.

This is super easy. Male guppies have color and are smaller than the female. Male guppies also have a gonopodium (a modified fin that is used to transfer sperm to the female. Female guppies are basically larger and fairly plain. When a female is pregnant you will see a dark spot near her anal opening. That spot is the fry growing in her body.

4. Move the breeding female guppies only into the breeding tank.

The breeding females will have already been impregnated by random male guppies. Female guppies stay pregnant for a few months even if there is no male around. This is because the females body stores to sperm and uses it to get pregnant several more times. You will need to dispose of the random male guppy fry. When the females have stopped giving birth you can now add the breeding male guppy.

5. Watch the female to keep track of when she gives birth.

Guppies aren't very cannibalistic but given an opportunity they will eat fry. After the female is done giving birth, move the adults to the other aquarium you set up.

6. Raise the fry until you can tell they are large enough to decide which of the guppies are the best.

Guppies fry can eat regular fish food right away. Make sure the food can fit in their mouths. Unfortunately you will have to need to cull the guppies so that you are left with two of the best males and the best female. It is very likely that by the time you can tell which guppies are females they will have already be impregnated by the less desirable males. You will need to put the female in a tank by herself for a few months. Female guppies will give birth for a few months after becoming pregnant because their bodies store the sperm.