

AQUARIUM ROOM CARE

ALWAYS LOG EVERYTHING:

WHAT HAPPENS (FISH DEATHS, NEW FISH, ETC.)

WHAT YOU DO (WATER CHANGES, FISH MEDICATION, ETC.)

Tank care

1. In general, try to do partial water changes once a week, however base your decisions on
 - a. Water quality
 - i. Conductivity
 - ii. Clarity (in some tanks water turns murky very quickly)
 - b. Tank cleanliness
 - i. Walls of each tank should be clean
 - ii. Besides rocks, PVC tubes, live worms, nothing else should be on the bottom of the tank.
 - iii. If using plants, change them regularly
 1. The following species always need plants:
 - a. *Gymnotus carapo*
 - b. *Gymnotus cylindricus*
 - c. *Steatogenys elegans*
 2. Plants are preferable, but not mandatory in the tanks of *Eigenmania virescens*
 - c. Filter
 - i. Need to be cleaned regularly
 - ii. Don't change a filter unless a fish in a tank dies

Fish Care

1. All fish should be maintained in temperature 23-26°C
2. Tank conductivities

Species	Common name	Conductivity
<i>Brachyhypopomus pinnicaudatus</i>	Knifefish	70 - 120 uS
<i>Steatogenys elegans</i>		70-120us
<i>Gymnotus cylindricus</i>		70-120uS
<i>Gymnotus carapo</i>	Banded knifefish	70 – 120 uS
<i>Rhamphichthys mormoratus</i>	Sandfish	200-350uS
<i>Rhamphichthys rostratus</i>	Trumpet-nose	300-350uS
<i>Eigenmania virescens</i>	Glass knifefish	70 – 120 uS
<i>Sternopygus macrucus</i>	Gold-stripe / longtail knifefish	400 – 500 uS
<i>Apteronotus leptorhynchus</i>	Brown ghost	100-300uS
<i>Apteronotus albifrons</i>	Black ghost	100-300uS
<i>Gnathonemus petersii</i>	Elephant nose	100-200uS
<i>Brienomyrus brachyistius</i>	Baby whale	100-200uS

- a. If conductivity is too high, do a partial water change
 - b. If conductivity is too low, add Walter's solution
 - a. Let all of the Walter's solution fully dissolve before measuring conductivity
 - 3. Each tank should be equipped with a separate feeding pipette
 - 4. Each species should have a separate net
 - a. For new fish always use separate nets
- 5. Always make time to walk around and inspect the fish for signs of illness. Some examples are:**
- a. Skin discoloration
 - b. Spots
 - c. Injuries
 - d. Signs of lethargy (keeping in mind that our fish are nocturnal and will not be at their most active during the day)
 - e. Bleeding of the fins and/or gills
 - f. Problems with breathing
- If you see any of these, refer to the Diagnostics manual for instructions on proper treatment.
- Never hesitate to ask anyone in the lab for a second opinion/diagnosis

6. When treating sick fish

- a. ALWAYS follow the instructions of the medications
- b. NEVER stop the dosage earlier than the instructed time
- c. NEVER use the same fish net as you do for other fish
 - i. Allocate a specific net for the hospital tank
- d. NEVER use the same feeding pipette as you would for other fish
 - i. Allocate a feeding pipette strictly for that tank
 - ii. If you used another pipette by accident, throw it out and get a new one.
- e. Depending on the disease, you might want to quarantine the sick fish in a hospital tank and treat it.
 - i. Keep in mind, if the disease is contagious (i.e., Ich, Tail and Fin Rot), once one fish has it, most likely everyone in that tank will.
- f. If a fish dies
 - i. Do a partial water change
 - 1. If it's alone in the tank
 - a. Throw out the contents of the filter
 - b. Bleach everything: tank, heater, PVC tubes, filter, nets
 - ii. Bleach the net before using it again

7. New fish

- a. Setup a new tank
 - i. Filter
 - ii. Heater
 - iii. PVC tubes
 - iv. Feeding tray filled with either sand or gravel
 - v. Net
 - vi. Feeding pipette
 - vii. Stress coat
 - viii. Adjust conductivity
 1. Acclimate the fish by slowly adding tank water to the original water in which the new fish are.
 - a. Usually when fish are brought in from the outside, the conductivities of their water are much higher than what we keep the fish in.
 2. Add water and then give about 15-20 minutes to allow the fish to adjust to the new conductivity.
 3. Allow the water in the tank to be a bit higher than normal to give fish more time to get used to its new environment
 4. When the conductivities of the tank water and "new fish" water are within 50uS you can put the fish into the tank.
 5. Monitor the new fish very closely for the next few weeks.