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

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