

## Discus Basics

Discus have a reputation for being temperamental & difficult to keep in home aquariums. Contrary to belief this need not be the case.

### Checklist

- Glass aquarium (minimum 120 litres for 2 adults)
- Gravel substrate
- Filter
- Heater & Thermometer
- Chlorine & chloramine neutralizer with stress aid (water ager)
- General hardness (gH) & carbonate hardness (kH) generators
- Discus trace elements
- pH, gH, kH, NH<sub>3</sub>/4, NO<sub>2</sub> & NO<sub>3</sub> test kits
- Live aquatic plants & drift wood
- Magnetic glass cleaner
- Gravel siphon
- Net
- Food

### Step 1

Rinse tank, gravel & accessories thoroughly in tap water. Ideally place your aquarium away from windows or direct sunlight to minimise algae growth.

### Step 2

Add gravel and fill your aquarium with cold tap water. Add water ager, gH & kH generators & trace elements as per directions. Add heater, thermometer, plants & accessories & let sit for 12 hours. Test water to ensure correct water parameters (temperature; 26°C-30°C, pH; 6-6.5, gH; 7°-9°, kH; 5°-6°) and adjust as required (see B.A. staff if unsure on how to do this).

### Step 3

Introduce your discus to its new home by floating its transport bag in the aquarium for 10 mins. Open the bag and add as much new aquarium water as is already in the bag. Float for another 10 mins. Using a soft net, gently place your discus into their new home (without adding water from the transport bag).

### Maintenance

Remove 10% of aquarium water every week using a gravel siphon. Add water ager, gH & kH generators to the aquarium in quantities suitable for the new water you will be adding. Add discus trace elements for the full tank capacity. Fill aquarium with cold tap water. Clean aquarium glass with a magnetic glass cleaner. Replace filter sponges or rinse in removed aquarium water as required (do not rinse in tap water as this will destroy beneficial filtration bacteria). Remove & clean filter impeller & impeller cavity every 6 weeks or as required. As with all species of fish, discus require quality biological filtration so it is important to regularly test aquarium water for ammonia, nitrite & nitrate levels (see B.A. Biological Basics & Filter Maintenance care sheets).

### Feeding

In the wild discus feed on shrimp, insects, larvae, small fish & plant matter and therefore a varied diet will maximize the health of your captive discus. Good quality discus granules should ideally be supplemented with live black worms & brine shrimp & frozen blood worms, mysis & black shrimp, brine with spirulina & prawns. Do not feed your discus beef heart as it will have difficulty breaking down the disproportionately high protein & fat levels.

### Tips

- When purchasing discus choose healthy, full bodied fish.
- Discus are naturally found in woody & reeded areas with low water movement, therefore this type of aquarium is ideal for making them feel at home.
- Healthy plant growth is the key to healthy fish as they absorb waste products from the water (see B.A. Plant Tank Basics care sheet).

*Feel free to contact the friendly staff at Boronia Aquarium for further information*

We recommend:



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