

PETSMART Cares

We take a variety of measures to ensure our fish are healthy and happy from the start. Our suppliers screen the fish for optimum health prior to sending them to our stores. To ensure they stay healthy after arrival, each PetSmart store preventatively medicates its aquariums. In addition, our water quality is checked twice daily so that the aquariums stay in optimum condition.

Aquatics services

To ensure your aquarium is balanced and disease-free, PetSmart offers free water testing. By bringing in a sample of your aquarium water, we can test the quality within minutes.

14-day guarantee

All pets sold in our aquatics department have a 14-day satisfaction guarantee. This means we will replace or refund the purchase price of any fish that becomes ill or dies during this period, provided the fish is returned to the store where it was purchased along with the sales receipt.

Are loaches right for you?

Yes No

- ☐ ☐ I have an appropriate location and stand for a correctly sized aquarium.
- ☐ ☐ I will test the water quality weekly and do a partial water change every 1-4 weeks.
- ☐ ☐ I will provide a proper environment and adequate nutrition for any fish I keep in my aquarium.

This Care Guide contains general information and helpful tips for the proper care of your pet, but is not comprehensive. Speak with our PetSmart store associates or contact a veterinarian with questions about your pet's health.

Supply list

Here's a list of the necessities you'll need to take home today to help your new loaches stay healthy and happy. Please ask a PetSmart® associate to help you choose these items.

Home

- ☐ An appropriate size glass or acrylic aquarium
- ☐ Aquarium stand
- ☐ Aquarium hood with lights
- ☐ Gravel, 2"-3" (5-8cm) layer or 1.5 lbs. per gal. (680g per 4L)
- ☐ Filtration system (ask associate for recommendation)
- ☐ Aquarium heater and thermometer

Food

- ☐ Variety of fish food (frozen/freeze-dried/flakes/sinking pellets)

Décor

- ☐ Decorations (driftwood/rock/ornament)
- ☐ Live plants (assists with biological filtration)
- ☐ Artificial plants

Supplies

- ☐ Water conditioner/dechlorinator
- ☐ Water test kit/strips
- ☐ Gravel vacuum (for water changes)
- ☐ Fish net

Extras

- ☐ Books and magazines
- ☐ General Fish Care Guide (free)

Common species of loaches:

Golden Dojo *Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*,
Clown *Botia macracanthus*, **Skunk** *B. morleti*,
Zebra *B. striata* and **Kuhli** *Acanthophtalmus kuhlii*

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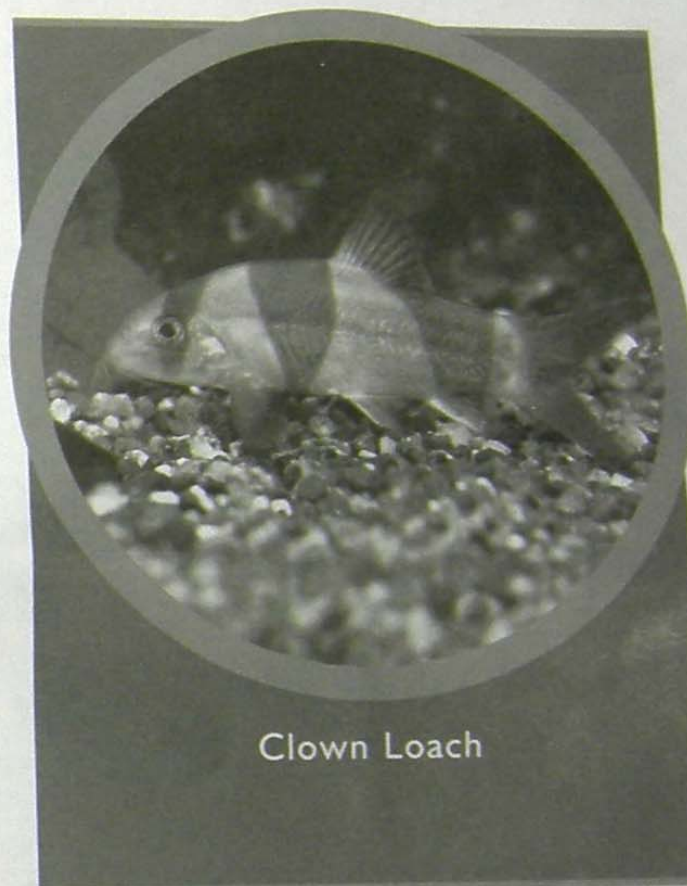
For more information on the care of pets,
visit petsmart.com/careguides

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Experience level: beginner

Loaches

see back panel for loach species



Clown Loach

For ages: 8 & up, with adult supervision

Pet size: 4"-12" (10-30cm) long

Community: tropical

Care Guide

Developed and approved by PetSmart® Veterinarians

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Traits & behavior

Omnivores

This means these fish eat both plants and tiny, living creatures.

Communal

Loaches do best when they are kept in small groups containing 3-6 loaches.

Bottom dwellers

You will see your loaches swimming near the bottom of your aquarium. To create a beautiful aquarium environment, be sure to add some middle and top swimmers as well. Ask a PetSmart associate to help you choose.

Non-aggressive

They are extremely peaceful and live best in a community aquarium with fish of the same disposition.

Scaleless

Loaches either lack or have very tiny scales, which means they have almost no protection from toxic materials dissolved in the aquarium. Avoid adding medications to the aquarium unless they are specifically recommended for "scaleless" fish.

Things to remember

Adding fish

Whether you're just starting your aquarium or introducing new fish into your aquarium, don't forget to add only 1-3 at a time.

Safety & cleanliness

Please remember that all pets may bite or scratch, and may transmit disease to humans. Keep your pet's home clean and wash your hands before and after handling your pet or cleaning his home.

Infants, young children, pregnant women, people with compromised immune systems, and the infirm or elderly are at greater risk of infections and should use caution when in contact with the pet or its habitat. Consult your doctor for more information.

Nutrition

Staple diet

Choose a tropical flake or sinking pellet fish food. Feed according to the directions on the packaging.

Specialty foods

Vary their diet by including frozen or freeze-dried bloodworms, tubifex worms and other small worms, mosquito larvae and daphnia. Always remember to thaw frozen foods before feeding.

Frequent feedings

For optimum health, feed your loaches as much food as they will consume in 1-3 minutes, twice a day. You can alternate between regular staple diet feedings and 2-4 meals per week of a specialty food.

Health

Signs your loaches are healthy:

- Eating vigorously and actively swimming together in the bottom of the aquarium
- Clear eyes, smooth, clean skin and fins free from any lesions or inconsistent colorations
- Calm, steady gill movements

Things to watch for:

- Poor growth or weight loss
- Inflamed gills, skin or fins
- Fins clamped to sides
- Scraping body on rocks

If you notice any of the signs described above, check your aquarium water quality and consult a PetSmart associate.



Environment

Aquarium

Minimum aquarium size for smaller species of loaches is 10 gal. (38L), but species that get over 4" (10cm) long need an aquarium that's larger. A good rule of thumb is one gallon (4L) of water for every one inch (3cm) of full-grown fish.

Décor

Loaches do best in aquariums that have lots of hiding places in the form of roots, driftwood and rockwork. In addition, place lots of hardy plants, such as vallisneria and Java fern throughout.

Fish compatibility

Loaches can share their aquarium with other non-aggressive, tropical community fish.

Lighting

Floating plants are excellent for providing the subdued lighting loaches prefer.

Water changes

Test water weekly to assess water quality. It is recommended that 10% of your aquarium water be changed per week. At the very least, 25% of your aquarium water should be changed per month.

Water temperature

Water temperature should range between 65-82° F (18-28° C) depending on the variety of Loach.

Aquarium placement

Place your aquarium in a low-traffic area, away from direct sunlight and drafts.

Aquarium stand

An aquarium stand will safely support the weight of your filled aquarium.

