



Axolotl Care Sheet

Species name:

Ambystoma mexicanum

Adult size:

25-30cm

Lifespan:

10-15 Years

Breeding age:

6-12 Months



Axolotls, *Ambystoma mexicanum*, are fascinating amphibians native to Mexico, renowned for their unique appearance and regenerative abilities. Often referred to as "walking fish" or "Mexican salamanders," they possess external gills and retain larval features throughout adulthood, known as neoteny. With a wide range of colours, including albino and melanoid varieties, they're popular in the aquarium trade. Axolotls are carnivorous and thrive on a diet of small fish, insects, and worms. Highly adaptable, they require cool, well-oxygenated water in captivity. Despite their popularity, they face threats in the wild due to habitat loss and pollution, highlighting the importance of conservation efforts.

Housing:

Enclosure: Axolotls are fully aquatic and so they require an aquarium to thrive, ideally 100L+

Substrate: Axolotls aren't the brightest creatures; they tend to try and eat substrate. We advise you keep them on very fine sand, or large pebbles as a substrate, or they will be fine on a plain bottom aquarium.

Temperature:

Maintain a water temperature of 15-18°C within the tank. In the summer cooling can be done by adding dechlorinated, cold tap water, or floating bottles of icy water in the tank.

Lighting:

Axolotls do not require lights to thrive, they will be just fine with ambient lighting from your home.

Feeding:

Diet: Axolotls are not fussy and will feed on prey items such as small locusts and crickets, to foods more familiar to the aquarium such as bloodworm and pellet food.

Feeding Schedule: Feed every day.



Enrichment:

Enrichment: Provide rocks, caves, and artificial plants in your aquarium as enrichment. Ensure they are not small enough to eat.

Health Care:

Health Checks: Regularly observe your Axolotl to see if you notice any changes in behaviour, appetite, or appearance. If something does not seem right seek professional advice promptly.

Hygiene: Keep the enclosure clean, removing waste and uneaten food promptly.

Quarantine: Quarantine new Axolotls before introducing them to existing ones to prevent the spread of disease.

Axolotls make fascinating pets when provided with the right care. Always do thorough research and consult with a veterinarian for specific advice based on your animals' individual needs.