



# Axolotl



## OVERVIEW



- Scientific Name: *Ambystoma mexicanum*
- Origin: Mexico
- Ease of Care: Intermediate
- Potential Adult Size: Up to 30cm
- Life Span: Upwards of 15 years
- Behaviour: Crepuscular
- Diet: Insectivore/Carnivore
- Handling: Only if absolutely necessary

## TOP TIPS

- ✓ Complete pH tests regularly, a pH of 6-8 is ideal
- ✓ Treat tap water with a Water Conditioner such as the Exo Terra Aquatize (DEA120) to remove chemicals
- ✓ Ensure a water depth of 30cm+
- ✓ Add a water filtration system to your aquarium

## HOUSING

- For one to two Axolotls, we recommend an aquarium of at least 3ft in length and 16" in height.

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Housing: Aquarium
- Heating: Room Temperature
- Lighting: Natural Room Lighting
- Substrate: Aquarium Sand
- Water: Conditioned Tap Water

## ENVIRONMENT

### Heating

Axolotls do not require additional heat source, room temperature is sufficient

### Heating an aquarium

- Background Temp: 16-22°C (61-72°F)
- Hot Spot: N/A
- Night-Time Temp: 16-22°C (61-72°F)

Check temperatures regularly, using a reliable aquatic thermometer to ensure that there are no extreme fluctuations.

### Lighting

No additional lighting is needed for Axolotls, your natural room lighting is sufficient.

### Substrates and Decoration

Personal choice will dictate how you decorate your aquarium, but we recommend the following as examples:

Aquarium sand

Suitable rocks, stones, and sinkable woods

- Suitable Live or artificial plant decoration will provide darker areas for the Axolotl to use for safety and shelter
- Live plants will aid maintaining the aquarium nitrate cycle

After setting up an aquarium for axolotls, with all substrates, décor, filter, and conditioned water – leave empty for a week or two. Use a freshwater aquarium testing kit to test the levels of ammonia, nitrates, and nitrites.

Ideal levels are:

- Ammonia: 0ppm (anything over 1ppm can kill your Axolotl)
- Nitrites: 0ppm (same as ammonia, 1ppm or more will be deadly)
- Nitrates: 20-40ppm (anything higher will become toxic. Water changes stop this level rising)
- pH: 6 to 8

## DIET & WATER



Ensure your Axolotl has a varied diet throughout their lifetime, with a mixture of insects.

Insects such as Earthworms and Bloodworms are great options and Arcadia Earth Pro AmphibiGold (RAREPAG80) provides variety.

## SUPPLEMENTATION



Axolotls do not require additional supplementation in the form of a calcium and multi-vitamin powder if the diet is kept varied.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



- A 20% water change is required weekly. To complete this, remove 20% of the aquarium water and replace with fresh conditioned tap water.

## HEALTH & HYGIENE



We recommend the following cleaning routine to keep your Axolotl healthy and happy:

	Water	Substrate	Enclosure
Daily			Wipe down inside the aquarium, and any formed algae
Weekly	Change 20% of the water		
Monthly	Check the aquarium filter and clean		

Always wash your hands, surfaces and equipment with warm water and disinfectant immediately before and after handling or feeding your animal, their food, enclosure and any other equipment using HabiStat Anti-Bac Spray (HABS) for any surface, and HabiStat Hand Sanitiser (HABG) for hands.