



Siamese Fighting Fish

At Tank, we are dedicated to the responsible care of fish. It has been proven that fish have memories (of up to a year) & can recognise their primary feeders. They are a great pet & we hope we can inspire you to take the best possible care of them. Siamese Fighters will live 2 to 5 years in captivity if treated well.

- **Siamese Fighters are tropical fish** & need tropical conditions – around 27 degrees. They live in small pockets of water in tropical countries. The water turns over daily due to tropical conditions, it is warm and the fighter can jump from pocket to pocket if the conditions are not suitable. In aquarium, he is restricted and relies on you to maintain the conditions. **Buy Sachems' Prime or Betta Basics & put some drops in every 3 days.**
- **Change 10% of the water once a week. Siphon the gravel once a week.**
- **Invest in a heater.** They are cheap (around \$20) & will provide your new pet with ideal conditions which will keep him healthy. In addition he will live longer & be much more active. Without a heater, your home temperature will fluctuate from low to high temps. Your fighter will have to adjust, causing stress which leaves him open for infection & disease. For this reason a heater is better than a light as a light needs to be turned off so your fighter can sleep.
- **Keep the pH neutral & check for pH ammonia weekly.** We recommend **5 to 10 litres minimum** for your fighter aquarium. It will fit a heater and give them room to swim.
- To keep the tank clean, **use a small gentle filter.** They are a labyrinth so any bubbles on the surface must be slow. Speak to our staff.
- **Make sure your bowl or tank has a lid.** Siamese jump from puddle to puddle in nature. **If you don't have a lid and your fish jumps:** they can survive long periods out of water, so pick him up with a soft net (marine nets are best) & put him back in the water. If he is still alive, treat him immediately (do not wait as infection will be rapid & it will be this that kills him in the next couple of days). Use a slime coat protection along with a fungus treatment. Do small water changes every 2 days (about 10% of the tank) as they will excrete a lot of toxins during the healing period. Come straight down & see us if you don't have what you need.
- **They can be put in a community tank** as long as there are no aggressive or nippy fish. Siamese also go best with gentle fish such as neon tetras. Fast moving fish can cause your Siamese to stay hidden. Don't put any decor in the tank that will scratch them. Don't mix them with Goldfish (the temperature requirements are vastly different). Avoid Guppies or fish with long fins as they may attack them.
- **Keep a soft plant in the tank.** We recommend Ambulia, it won't scratch them, they enjoy hiding in it, it helps them to feel safe so you will end up seeing them more (they know they have somewhere to hide if things get dangerous so they are more confident to come out & swim about). The plant will also provide a good source of nutrition, oxygenate the water & take up excess nutrients to help keep the tank clean.
- **Don't use big pebbles** on the base of the tank, fighters have been known to stick their heads in to get some food & become stuck between the larger pebbles. Small gravel is safest.
- Males will fight to the death so **keep them separated**, they may not kill each other immediately, but at some time, one will enter the other's domain & will not survive. It is cruel to even attempt to keep them together. They will often leave females alone in a larger tank but can still be territorial so be careful. Females are not as bright in colour & have much shorter tail fins therefore much hardier & less susceptible to disease. Females get along as long as there is plenty of water space. – We recommend no more than two females in a 60 litre tank.
- **Siamese Fighters are susceptible to fin rot, melt & white spot.** You need to treat immediately for any signs of ill health. They are very **vulnerable to ammonia spikes** so test pH & ammonia weekly. As an alternative – invest in an ammonia alert – they are a fantastic product that you can leave permanently in the tank. Please refer to our recommended tank maintenance program on our website.
- In a community tank, ensure that your fighter is getting enough food as sometimes they move slowly & miss out. Around 6 to 8 pellets a day and a little bloodworm as a treat once a week.