

Angel Fish

Pterophyllum scalare

Introduction

The unique shape and majestic, calm, swimming style of angel fish are just some of the reasons why this fish is one of the most popular of all aquarium fish. Angelfish are laterally compressed and look like a disc on edge with long fins coming out of the top and bottom and have 2 'feelers' in front of the anal fin. Angels have been line bred, so now there is a large range of colour forms in both normal as well as longfin varieties.

Angels are best kept in pairs or better still, small schools. Single fish, when grown are likely to pick on other fish and ideally should not be kept with them.

Maximum Size

Up to 14cm

Water Conditions

Tolerates a wide range of water conditions but prefers soft slightly acid water.

- Hardness, 50 – 150 ppm.
- pH 6.5 – 7.0

Temperature Range

Tropical 25-29°C.

Colouration

The eye is usually dark red, however many colour strains now have black eyes. The wild form body colour is silvery-white with 4 dark vertical bars running through it. The first stripe passes through the eye, the second usually starts in front of the dorsal and anal fins, the third is usually through the dorsal and anal fins and the fourth is at the base of the caudal peduncle. There may or may not be fainter dark bars running parallel to the more pronounced stripes. A number of colour strains have been developed with gold, marble, koi, blacks and a combination of these now available.



Tank SetUp

Angelfish do best in a deep tank of at least 40 centimetres height, to accommodate the height of their fins and so they don't look cramped in their tank. Dark coloured background enables the fine colours of the angelfish to show through to its fullest. 3mm black gravel and river sand; roughly 10:50kg ratio - mix the black gravel through the sand to create a dappled effect.

Ensure water conditions are set accordingly to the desired ranges for the angelfish and they appreciate a well-planted tank with lots of open swimming space.

Feeding

Will eat most aquarium fish foods but they will thrive and be much more apt to breed on a greatly varied diet including some live, frozen or fresh food occasionally. Small size angels, at about 3 – 4 cm are still considered fry and require several feeds a day to keep them healthy and growing.

