

African Peacock Cichlids

Genus: *Aulonocara*



Top Left: Marble Peacock Cichlid
Bottom Left: Eureka Red

Above: Golden Peacock Cichlid

Top right: Blue Peacock Cichlid
Bottom right: Dragon Blood



Natural Range

African rift lake (Lake Malawi) in the open water regions with sandy substrate.

Maximum Size and Longevity

This species ranges from small to medium in size reaching a maximum size of 10 – 15 cm. They can live in captivity for more than 10 years in the right conditions.

Water Parameters

Temperature: 25 °C - 28 °C

pH: 7.6 – 8.0

General Hardness: 300 – 400 ppm

Feeding

These cichlids are omnivorous feeders so they require a varied diet of live food, meaty food, worms and vegetable matter. They will accept Tetra cichlid flakes and pellets with gusto. They are greedy and messy eaters and therefore need frequent partial water changes and adequate filtration to keep the biological waste to a minimum.

Compatibility

Peacocks are semi-aggressive and territorial. They should not be kept with small or peaceful fish. They are more suitable for semi-aggressive African (Malawi) community tanks.

Colour and Varieties

Consist of beautiful hues of red, blue, orange and yellow, the varieties include: blue, red, marble, dragon blood, eureka red, sulphur crested, albino and jacobfreibergi.

General Information

African Peacocks are very popular aquarium fish, because of their lively behaviour, bright colours, shapes, size and intelligence. These hardy fish are very easy to care for and can breed successfully in captivity.

Sexing and Breeding

Peacock cichlids are maternal mouth brooders; the females take care of the eggs and fry. The average brooding period is 3 weeks after which the female releases her fry. Males are typically more colourful while females are drab in colour (silver and brown). The male will have bright egg spots on his anal fin, whilst a small percentage of females will also have egg spots.

Handy Hints for Success

African peacock cichlids are a recent introduction to the hobby and the popularity of this beautiful hardy fish has grown immensely. To keep this fish happy, keep the water alkaline, temperature tropical and provide a varied diet.

care sheet



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Cichlid