

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 with 2 'feelers' in front of the anal fin. Angels have been selectively bred, resulting in 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. Angels are generally peaceful however larger mature specimens may eat smaller fish such as neons.

Maximum Size

Up to 14cm.

Water Quality

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

- Temperature: 25°C — 29°C
- pH: 6.5 — 7.0
- General Hardness: 50 — 150ppm

Colouration and Varieties

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. Many colour strains have been developed by fish breeders around the world with blue, gold, marble, koi, blacks and other colour variations now available.

Angels have been selectively bred for their scale patterning. For example, the Pearlscale or Diamond Angel have very attractive diamond-like scales.



Tank Setup

Angels do best in a deep tank of at least 40 centimetres high to accommodate their tail shape. Dark coloured backgrounds enable their fine colours to show through to their fullest extent. 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.

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