

## Clown Fish

*Amphiprion ocellaris*



### Natural Range

Indo-Pacific

### Maximum Size and Longevity

Can grow up to 8cm. They can live for up to 10 years.

### Water Quality

Clown fish require good quality water, ensure their aquarium has a filter and airstone, both operating vigorously. This is a tropical marine species requiring seawater. Change approx 25% every 2-4 weeks.

- Temperature: 24°C - 26°C.
- pH: 8.2
- Specific gravity: 1.020

### Feeding

Staple diet should be dry foods, supplemented with live and frozen

### Compatibility

*Ocellaris* clowns become territorial at about 5cm. Once they reach this size, it's best to keep no more than one pair per tank and only pack one per bag when moving them. Juveniles are very compatible with each other, swimming and feeding together in compact schools.

### Colour and Varieties

*A. ocellaris* is usually bright orange with white bands. The black and white colour form occurs naturally around Darwin and is currently thought to be a geographical race. Juvenile black and white clowns retain the orange/brown colour until they reach adulthood, at about 5cm. Caramel clowns are orange and white as juveniles, gradually developing a rich orange/caramel top half as they mature.

### Sexing

In the absence of females, male clown fish will change sex by growing larger and becoming female. As a general rule, the largest adults are female and the smallest are males.

### Your requirements for starting a Clown Fish tank

- Tank (Best in 50 litres or more)
- Air pump
- Hydrometer & Thermometer
- Decorations or hiding places
- Aquarium heater
- Biological filter & airstone
- Aquarium light
- Artificial sea salt or natural sea water
- An anti-chlorine agent (to ensure water is chlorine free)
- Shell grit or other marine substrate
- Test Kits

### Nitrogen Cycle and Biological Filtration

We recommend waiting at least 2 days after establishing the tank before introducing any Clown Fish. Ensure your water parameters are correct before introducing your Clown Fish. Keep stocking densities low during the conditioning period, which can take between 3-6 weeks. During this time, monitor the progress of your system by measuring pH, ammonia and nitrite levels. When filters are biologically active test for nitrates, and perform regular partial water changes to keep nitrate levels to a minimum.