

Angelfish Facts

Angelfish are members of one of the largest families of vertebrates on Earth. The family Cichlidae is made up of over 1,300 identified species in 220 different genera. New species are being added to this family every year. It is highly possible that there could be as many as 3,000 species that fall within the scientific classification of this family. This family, referred to in laymen's terms as cichlids, includes oscars, discus and tilapias. Many sources will indicate that angelfish are indigenous to the Amazon River. While this is in fact true, this species also inhabits both the Orinoco River and Essequibo River systems. The angelfish's natural habitat extends throughout Guyana, Venezuela, and Columbia in addition to Brazil.

Angels are exotic and delightful creatures. These fish are one of the most popular choices for fish lovers. Their unique body appearance certainly facilitated their massive popularity. They are available in an array of patterns and colors, from solid silver to banded, marbled, black, golden, or Koi. These fish are one of the most available species available in pet stores. Angelfish are extremely easy on the wallet. Angelfish are easy fish to keep in good physical shape.

While angels will not grow anywhere near the size of an oscar or a discus, they are not a small species. The angels on display in pet shops are almost certainly quite young. These fish usually grow to six inches in length in adulthood. They can be maintained in a rather small aquarium as juveniles. A fully grown angel, however, should not be housed in tank under 10 gallons in size. A 20 gallon fish tank is recommended.

Angelfish make great additions to any freshwater community tank. They are not timid creatures, but they are not bullies either. These fish have a peaceful personality. However, just as any other species, they will perceive smaller tank mates as a means of nutrition. They should not be mixed with species small enough for them to feast on. Remember this when choosing their potential tank mates. Nor do you want to keep them with known fin nippers. Species such as barbs and tetras will instinctively nibble on fish of the long finned variety, even if the fish is larger than them. You never want to house a betta or an angelfish with a species that has a reputation as a fin nipper. Information on the habits of various freshwater species is readily available on the internet. Any knowledgeable fish store can provide you with information on which species work well together in a community environment.

Angelfish are omnivores. Their diet should contain both plant and animal matter. You will want to make sure to select a fish food that is formulated for omnivores as a main staple. A high quality flake food is all you will need to keep your angelfish healthy and happy. Many fish keepers prefer to provide an assortment of dietary supplements in addition to the primary diet. Although this is not mandatory, it is a good practice. You might want to ask yourself; would you want to eat the exact same thing for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day of your life? A diverse diet will help to guard against the possibility of any nutritional deficiencies. Crushed seaweed sheets are a great supplement for omnivores. High protein dietary additives such as brine shrimp, tubifex and bloodworms are great alternatives to common fish food. If you can not find them fresh, frozen and freeze-dried variations are available commercially.

As natives of South America, angelfish are considered a tropical species. Angelfish prefer warmer water. A temperature range of 72-86 degrees Fahrenheit is the ideal environment. Angelfish are a relatively long lived species. If properly care for you can expect them to live up to 10 years of age.

Unlike many inhabitants of the Amazon River, angels will not prey upon their un-hatched eggs. Just the opposite, the proud parents are known to stand guard over their eggs through the 3-4 day gestation period. Once hatched, the parents will herd their children from plant to plant for close to a week. At some undetermined time, the angelfish's parental instinct will dissipate. The parents will suddenly view their fry as a source of nourishment. They should be separated from their offspring.

About the Author

Trying to raise any certain species of fish in an aquarium that is not large enough could easily facilitate its death. A savvy fish owner wouldn't consider trying to raise an angel in a 5 gallon [desktop nano aquarium](#). To get more fun filled facts about the world's favorite [freshwater aquarium fish](#) go to my online fish guide.

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