

# Betta Care Basics

## Keeping Bettas

Bettas are known as Betta Splendens or Siamese fighting fish. Bettas come from rice paddies in the wild and normally live in small pockets of water. They do not need an air pump and can live in a bowl of water and feel right at home. Male bettas by nature blow a bubble-nest at the top of the bowl. They do this as part of their breeding ritual. If a male betta pairs with a female betta, the male will collect the eggs and place them into the bubble-nest for fertilization and incubation. Do not be alarmed when you do not see a bubble-nest forming, a male betta can live without mating perfectly fine.

**REMEMBER:** Do not put more than one betta in a fish bowl. Bettas are territorial and will fight each other to the death if two or more bettas are placed in the same bowl.

## Hikari® Betta Bio-Gold® Feeding Tips

For smaller bettas (under 1.5" in length from the tip of their nose to the base of their tail, before the fins) we suggest using Micro Pellets® and feeding 6 pellets twice a day. For bettas 1.5" to 1.75" betta, feed three pellets of Betta Bio-Gold® up to three times daily. Add 1 pellet per 1/4 inch of growth, never feeding more than 5 pellets at one feeding. Additional feedings can be made if they are at least three hours apart and at least that amount of time before all lights are out in the room. During feedings, feed one pellet at a time and make sure the betta completely consumes each pellet. Do not overfeed. Overfeeding can be detrimental to the betta and the water quality. Remove any uneaten food after the feeding period.

## Cleaning and Maintenance

- Change all of the water at least once or twice a week if possible.
- When cleaning the bowl do not use household cleaners. Simply use warm water and a clean brush or sponge.
- Do not place betta in direct sunlight, near heaters, air conditioners or where rapid temperature changes may occur. Maintain a temperature between 73°F (23°C) and 81°F (27°C).

## Option 1: Full Water Change

1. Fill a separate container with water.
2. Add Betta Ultimate® water conditioner to the new water (one drop for every 16oz of water). Betta Ultimate® will ensure that the water is free of chlorine, chloramines, and heavy metals which can harm the betta. The use of Reverse Osmosis w/Deionization is acceptable also. NOTE: Do not use regular tap water without Betta Ultimate®.
3. Make sure the water temperature of the new water is similar to the water in the betta's bowl. Temperature fluctuations can be stressful to the fish. Perform a touch test, use your finger and touch the water in the bowl and then touch the new water and make sure the temperature feels the same.
4. You can net the betta from the bowl or pour out the betta from the bowl into a net.
5. Put the betta into newly prepared water.
6. Empty old water.
7. Pour new water with betta into bowl.



## Option 2: Partial Water Change

1. Follow steps 1-3 from Option 1.
2. Pour out half of the water out of the betta bowl. You do not have to remove the betta.
3. Add new water.