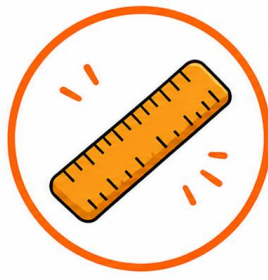


AXOLOTL CARE GUIDE



Scientific Name

Ambystoma mexicanum



Adult Size

20–30 cm



Lifespan

Usually 10–15 years



Social

Generally best housed alone

Housing

Axolotls need cool, stable water, ideally between 15°C and 20°C. Allow at least a 60 cm tank (approximately 60 litres) for one adult or a 90 cm tank (approximately 150 litres) for a pair. Axolotls spend much of their time on the bottom, so a tank with greater length and width is preferable to a tall, narrow tank.

Use a bare-bottomed tank or very fine aquarium sand. Avoid gravel and small stones, which may be swallowed and cause a potentially fatal intestinal blockage. The ideal water pH for Axolotls is 7.4–7.6.

The aquarium should be fully cycled before introducing an axolotl. Use a sponge filter or an internal filter that does not cause a strong current. Include several hides (ceramics, ornaments, driftwood) and suitable live or artificial plants, with dim lighting and a regular day-and-night cycle.

Suggested Products for Water Quality

- **Seachem Axolotl Conditioner or Prime:** Protects sensitive skin and gills by removing chlorine and chloramine from tap water. It also temporarily detoxifies harmful nitrogen compounds while the biological filter processes them.
- **Seachem Trace:** Replaces small amounts of minerals that can be removed through filtration, water changes or the use of Axolotl Buffer. These minerals help maintain appropriately mineralised water.
- **Seachem Axolotl Buffer:** Maintains a stable pH of approximately **7.4–7.6**. Sudden or significant pH changes can stress an axolotl and interfere with biological filtration.
- **Seachem Stability:** Adds beneficial bacteria that process ammonia and nitrite. This is especially important because axolotls produce considerable waste and are highly sensitive to both compounds.

Companionship

Axolotls are generally safest when housed alone and should not share an aquarium with fish. If compatible axolotls are housed together, they should be a similar size and provided with sufficient space and separate hides.

Handling

Axolotls have delicate, permeable skin, they must never be removed from the water for routine handling or play. If an axolotl must be moved or handled, it should be caught/ guided into a transport container or bag as gently as possible.

Diet

Axolotls are carnivorous and require a balanced, varied diet. Suitable foods include earthworms, brine shrimp, bloodworms, quality sinking axolotl pellets and Fish Fuel Co.'s specially formulated axolotl cubes. Remove uneaten food promptly to prevent waste from affecting water quality.

Juveniles generally need to be fed more frequently than adults. Healthy adults can usually be fed two to three times per week, with portions adjusted according to their age, size, appetite and body condition.

Cleaning

Remove faeces and uneaten food promptly to prevent waste from affecting water quality. Test the water regularly and complete a partial water change of approximately 20–25% as required. Always treat new tap water with a suitable water conditioner before adding it to the aquarium.

Gently rinse filter sponges and reusable media in water removed from the aquarium, rather than untreated tap water, to preserve the beneficial bacteria. Avoid replacing all filter media at once or doing so on the same day as a water change. Removing too many beneficial bacteria at one time may disrupt the biological cycle, potentially causing harmful ammonia or nitrite levels to rise.

Never use soap, household sprays or scented cleaning products inside the aquarium.

Quick Reminder

Axolotls require cool, stable water between **15°C and 20°C**, a pH of approximately **7.4–7.6**, gentle filtration and a fully cycled aquarium. They should be handled only when absolutely necessary and should never be housed with fish.