

## FISHCARE SHEET No: 7

## Angelfish

**Genus:** *Pterophyllum*. Typically, *Pterophyllum scalare*, *P. altum* and *P. leopoldi*.

**Family:** Cichlidae

**Geographic Origin:** South America. Mainly from Brazil but most cultivated aquarium stock comes from breeders in the Far East!

**Common Names:** Angelfish

**Compatibility:** Generally peaceful enough for a community collection. Adults may become territorial when spawning and small fish (Neon Tetra size) may not be safe.

**Minimum Aquarium Size:** One pair of *Pterophyllum* will be fine in a 600 x 380 x 300mm (24" x 15" x 12") tank, providing it is glazed so that it is 24" tall so as to give this 'tall' species enough depth of water. A 1200 x 380 x 450mm (48" x 15" x 18") tank will hold several pairs.

**Temperature :** 23°-28°C (75°-82°F), whilst a rise of a couple of degrees is better for breeding.

**Habitat :** Fine gravel /coarse sand. Several clumps of 'grassy' plants (*Vallisneria*, *Sagittaria*) will provide resting places. Large pieces of inclined slate or thick 'bamboo/cane' sticks will make ideal spawning surfaces for these egg-depositing fish.

**Water:** Ideally, these fish prefer soft acid water but most specimens adapt to whatever comes out of the tap. Water should be filtered. Regular partial water changes advised especially in the fry-raising aquarium to where fertilised eggs (removed from the parents) are transferred for separate hatching. Any accumulated dirt will result in fry deaths.

**Health:** Generally hardy.

**Diet :** Omnivorous. Relish live or frozen foods. *Daphnia*, Mosquito larvae excellent for getting fish into optimum condition for Showing or breeding.

**Plants :** Will not destroy plants, although some broad-leaved specimens may be 'over-cleaned' and left a bit battered if not regarded as an acceptable spawning site.

**Breeding Notes :** Eggs may be removed from the spawning tank and raised artificially using an airstone to create water currents and simulate parent fish action in keeping eggs well-oxygenated and clean of debris.

**Availability :** A large number of colour variants, together with 'Lace' and 'Veil' long-finned specimens, are readily available. Whilst fish with split, or branched, pelvic fins may well be healthy, they will not make good exhibition fish.

**Show Class :** FBAS Show Class Da.

