

# Step-by-Step Guide to Rearing Arowana Fish: Unlocking the Secrets of Dragon Keeping

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Arowana fish, renowned for their iridescent scales and mythical status, have captivated aquarists worldwide. These enigmatic predators present unique challenges and rewards in the realm of fishkeeping. This comprehensive guide will provide a step-by-step roadmap for aspiring dragon keepers, ensuring their success in rearing these majestic creatures.

## Chapter 1: Understanding Arowana Biology

**Aquarium Requirements:** Arowana fish demand spacious accommodations to thrive. A tank measuring at least 120 gallons is recommended, with dimensions suited to the specific species. Ensure ample swimming space and avoid overcrowding.



### AROWANA FISH CARE: Step by guides in rearing

**Arowana fish** by Aaron Shepard

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**Water Parameters:** Maintain pristine water conditions with a temperature range of 78-82°F (25.6-27.8°C) and a pH between 6.0-7.5. Arowanas require well-oxygenated water, so invest in a powerful filtration system and air stone.

**Diet and Feeding:** As apex predators, arowanas require a carnivorous diet consisting primarily of live feeders such as crickets, mealworms, and small fish. Ensure a varied diet to meet their nutritional needs. Feed regularly, but avoid overfeeding.

## **Chapter 2: Selecting and Quarantining Arowana**

**Species Selection:** Various arowana species exist, each with distinct characteristics. Research and choose a species that aligns with your experience level and available resources. Consider factors such as size, temperament, and rarity.

**Quarantining:** Before introducing a new arowana into your tank, it is crucial to quarantine it for at least 30 days. This isolation period allows you to observe the fish for any signs of disease or parasites. Treat any ailments promptly before introducing it to the main tank.

## **Chapter 3: Creating a Natural Habitat**

**Substrates and Decor:** Provide a natural, dark-colored substrate, such as sand or gravel. Decorate the tank with live plants, driftwood, and other hiding places to mimic their natural environment. Create a shaded area where the arowana can retreat during the day.

**Lighting:** Arowanas prefer dim lighting. Provide moderate lighting during the day, but ensure there are shaded areas for the fish to rest. Avoid

sudden changes in lighting, as this can stress them.

**Temperature Control:** Maintain a stable water temperature within the recommended range. Use a heater or chiller as necessary to ensure optimal conditions for your arowana.

## **Chapter 4: Health and Disease Management**

**Disease Prevention:** Provide excellent water conditions, a balanced diet, and a stress-free environment to prevent disease outbreaks. Regularly inspect your arowana for any signs of illness, such as loss of appetite, labored breathing, or lesions.

**Disease Treatment:** If disease strikes, consult with an experienced veterinarian for proper diagnosis and treatment. Follow the prescribed medication regimen carefully and monitor the fish's recovery closely.

**Parasite Control:** Arowanas can be susceptible to parasites. Consider using prophylactic treatments and quarantine new fish to minimize the risk of infestation.

## **Chapter 5: Growth and Development**

**Feeding for Growth:** Arowanas grow rapidly, requiring a nutrient-rich diet. Feed them frequently and provide a variety of live and frozen foods. As they mature, gradually increase the portion sizes.

**Tank Maintenance:** Regular water changes and tank cleaning are essential for maintaining a healthy environment. Vacuum the substrate, clean the filter media, and replace a portion of the tank water weekly.

**Handling with Care:** Arowanas have delicate scales that can be easily damaged. Always handle them gently using a soft net. Avoid rough handling or sudden movements that could cause stress.

## **Chapter 6: Nurturing the Majestic Predator**

**Behavioral Enrichment:** Stimulate your arowana's mental and physical well-being by providing enrichment activities. Introduce live plants, floating toys, and interactive feeding techniques. Engage with your fish daily to build trust and promote bonding.

**Socialization:** Certain arowana species can be kept in pairs or small groups. However, choosing compatible tankmates is crucial to avoid aggression. Observe their interactions closely and separate them if necessary.

**Lifespan and Legacy:** With proper care, arowanas can live for many years. They can become cherished companions and symbols of pride for their owners. Ensure you provide a lifetime of exceptional care for these majestic creatures.

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Rearing arowana fish is a fulfilling and rewarding pursuit, offering a glimpse into the enigmatic world of these ancient predators. By following these step-by-step guidelines, you can create an optimal environment for your arowana to thrive and live a long, healthy life. Remember, patience, dedication, and a genuine passion for these magnificent creatures are key to unlocking the secrets of dragon keeping.



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