



# Axolotl care guide

## THE BASICS

### General information:

- Care level: Intermediate
- Adult size: 8-14 inches (average approx. 9-10 inches)
- Temperature: 16-18c (it is important to manage this temperature)
- pH range: 7-8
- gH range: 7-14
- kH range: 3-8

Whilst it is imperative to use an adequate water conditioner, you **MUST** avoid any containing Aloe Vera or Iodine as these are harmful to axolotl's. We only use Seachem Prime.

### Appropriate housing:

An aquarium at least 2ft long and 75L for a single adult is the minimum. For each additional adult, it is recommended to increase this by 1ft and 40L.

Adequate filtration is a **MUST** and a minimum flow rate of double the aquarium size is recommended (although greater is better) as axolotl's produce a high bio load. When considering the filtration, the greater amount of media inside, the better.

Although many decorations are axolotl safe there are also some that should **NEVER** be in an axolotl set up, gravel must not be used as a substrate as this could result in an impaction, where the axolotl has swallowed the gravel but is unable to pass this, resulting in a costly vet bill. No items can be placed in the habitat that are rough or sharp as axolotl's have very delicate skin and this could result in damage and possible infections (we only recommend silk or live plants for this reason). Fine sand makes a great substrate but only once the axolotl is over 5 inches long, smaller than this then they must remain bare bottom.

Slate, tiles, or even artificial grass can be used. Any rocks etc are to be at least 3 times the size of the axolotl's head as they can open their mouths wide and this could result in the swallowing of the items.

Always make sure they have plenty of hiding places, they are not great fans of high levels of light so they need to be able to move away from this as needed. Low-level lighting should be used within the aquarium, and they must always be kept out of direct sunlight.

### **Tank mates:**

Axolotls are species only and **MUST** never be kept with fish, snails and plecos as these will attack the axolotl's external gills and slime coat. Although they can be housed with other axolotl's, these must be of a similar size and **MUST** be of the same gender.

### **Axolotl feeding:**

Dendrobaena worms are the most nutritional to your axolotl, always source these from a reputable supplier, local fishing tackle and bait shops will usually supply these. Other foods include, sinking carnivore pellets, sinking salmon pellets, repashy grub pie or axolotl specific pellets.

As a treat you can feed your axolotl bloodworm, defrosted raw salmon or prawn (these must have been frozen for 30 days or more to kill any potential parasites) or you may even want to add river/ghost shrimp for stimulation. These are all a treat once per week and **MUST** not form their staple diets as they hold very little nutritional value.

Worms **MUST NEVER** be dug up from the garden due to the risk of pesticides or parasites being introduced to your axolotl