

Useful information

Discus Feed:

Over the years, we have developed an optimum feed-mix, which all discus fish in our hatchery are exclusively fed. Our specially developed feed contains everything that discus fish require for a healthy diet. So that you too can provide your discus fish with high-quality, all-inclusive and easy-to-use feed, we offer our STENDKER Discus Feed as an all-round complete feed, available in specialist pet shops. This sound and balanced feed-mix plays an important role in keeping your discus fish healthy and in ensuring brilliant colours, good reproduction and growth.

Feed Dosage using STENDKER Good Heart:

Please split the following feed amounts into 2 – 3 feeds per day and be certain to defrost the feed before feeding. (The evening before feeding, place the daily amount of feed in your refrigerator in a plastic container with a well-sealing lid, to defrost it gradually so that the feed will retain a firm consistency!)

For 10 discus fish with a size of:

- 6.5 to 12 cm (2,5"-4,5") you will need approx. ½ to 1 blister (2.5 to 5 g / 0.1 to 0.2 oz) per meal, which corresponds to 7.5 to 15 g / 0,25 – 0,5 oz per day.

- 12 to 18 cm (5"-7") you will need approx. 1 to 1 ½ blisters (5 to 7.5 g / 0,2 - 0,3 oz) per meal, which corresponds to 15 to 22.5 g / 0.5-0.75 oz, per day.

During your holidays:

Why not refrain from feeding your discus fish for a while? Think of it as being similar to fasting for humans. Discus fish 10 cm / 4" and over are easily able to live 2-3 weeks without food. Lean times occur in the fish's natural habitat too. You can also refrain from water changes during this time, as the lack of feed means that the water will only be minimally soiled. Please keep in mind to:

- regulate lighting using a timer clock
- add an additional pump/ filter as a back-up in case of failure
- lower the water temperature to 27°C / 81°F (reduces hunger)

After you return home, you should gradually raise the water temperature again and feed only small amounts of feed to your discus fish.

Important information

Discus and Cichlid Behavioural Characteristics:

Discus fish belong to the Cichlid genus and therefore should be kept in groups of at least 10 fish! (Exception: keeping a pair of fish/ breeding). Typical behaviour for this type of Cichlid is that, in smaller groups, often one fish will become dominant. This fish will then attack all other discus fish in the group, and often the group dynamic will result in the group preventing the weakest fish from feeding. The weakest fish will then become dark in colour, remain immobile in a corner, lose weight, will be excluded by the group and may die. If this happens, the group then turns on the next weakest fish and prevents it from feeding, and so on. To prevent such behaviour from continuing, we recommend that you increase the stocking density until the aggression in the group decreases. Experience has shown that discus fish behave peacefully in group sizes of 10 fish or more. The described behaviour is well-known in African Cichlids (e.g. Malawi, Tangajika). Discus fish are South American Cichlids with similar behavioural characteristics!

On our homepage www.Diskuszucht-Stendker.de you will find comprehensive, FREE information and tips on everything regarding discus fish, including:

- useful information about discus fish
- discus aquariums for first-time aquarium owners
- aquarium size and stocking density for discus fish
- plant life recommendations for discus aquariums
- companion fish recommendations for discus
- aquascaping with discus fish
- feeds and feeding for discus fish
- fundamentals of general aquarium keeping
- aquarium filters – how to build your own filter
- useful general tips for discus fish and much more...

Experience the beauty and perfection of nature in your living room. Relax and enjoy aquarium entertainment of the unique kind. Our discus fish make keeping an aquarium simple and fun!

Your STENDKER Discus Hatchery

Quality-Made in Germany

NEW EDITION



Diskuszucht Stendker
GmbH & Co. KG

www.Diskuszucht-Stendker.de



Discus fish breeding-Made in Germany
Aquarium-keeping made easy

Useful information

Discus fish belong to the Cichlid genus and originate from the Amazon region in South America. Discus fish love the company of members of their own species and should be kept in pairs (14 cm/5 inches and over) or in groups of at least 10 fish. Discus fish can reach a size of up to 21 cm/ 8" in diameter, live for up to 15 years and come in a fascinating variety of colours.

They are fully grown at the age of 2 to 2.5 years. The discus fish is also referred to as "the king of the fresh water aquarium".

It is a common misconception that discus fish are difficult to keep. While this may apply to discus fish caught in the wild, our STENDKER Discus Fish have little in common with these wild fish and are known worldwide as being robust and easy to keep.

We have been breeding our STENDKER Discus Fish since 1965 in Warendorf (NRW, in the Münsterland region of Germany). We are Europe's largest discus hatchery and are known for the first-class quality and robust nature of our fish. Given species-appropriate care, our fish have a high life expectancy.

Our STENDKER Discus Fish are very easy to keep because they are held in and are accustomed to German tap water! We guarantee that our discus fish are free of tapeworms and discus plague. (see Preparing and Maintenance)

IMPORTANT:

Fish from different hatcheries or other sources may come with different strains of bacteria and hence should not be kept together! Therefore, you should decide in advance, whether you wish to keep fish caught in the wild, Asian captive breeds or our STENDKER Discus Fish and then stick to one specialist pet shop or breeder that you trust.

The German Veterinary Association for Animal Protection (Tierärztliche Vereinigung für Tierschutz e.V.) recommends the following fish densities for ornamental fish in specialist pet shops:

a maximum of 45 fish (8 cm / 3") per 180 litres (50 gallons), or a maximum of 12 fish (15 cm / 6") per 180 litres (50 gallons).

Aquarium Size and Stocking Density

For discus fish kept in household aquariums, you should opt for one of the following recommended aquarium sizes with the respective stocking densities and plant life.

1. Discus pair/discus breeding

To breed discus fish, we recommend keeping a pair of discus fish in an aquarium with a capacity of 150 litres / 40 US gallons (60 cm x 50 cm x 50 cm) (23,5" x 20" x 20").

Juvenile fish should be separated from the parent fish at 12 – 13 days of age, as this is when they start searching for food on the floor of the aquarium and could ingest pathogens or germs. A pair of discus fish should be separated after a period of 6 months, so that they can recuperate from breeding. Ideally, they should be added to a group of 10 or more discus fish.

2. Discus pairs with companion fish in aquariums with plant life

We recommend an aquarium with a capacity of 250 litres/65 US gallons (100 cm x 50 cm x 50 cm) (40" x 20" x 20").

3. Rearing discus fish and/ or keeping discus groups

To rear a discus group (of at least 10 fish), an aquarium with a capacity of 180 litres / 50 US Gallons is suitable (100 cm x 40 cm x 45 cm). (40" x 16" x 18") To keep 10 fully-grown fish, without companion fish and with minimal plant life, we recommend an aquarium with a capacity of 300 litres / 80 US gallons (120 cm x 50 cm x 50 cm) (47" x 20" x 20").

4. Discus group with plant life and companion fish

To keep 10 fully-grown fish, with companion fish and plant life, we recommend an aquarium with a capacity of at least 400 litres/105 US gallons (160 cm x 50 cm x 50 cm) (63" x 20" x 20").

Recommended companion fish:

Neon fish, Butterfly Cichlids, small Siluridae species (types of catfish), Dwarf Cichlids, Amano shrimp and many more...

Recommended additional equipment:

diaphragm pump with aeration stone, nightlight as an orientation guide.

Preparing and Maintenance

Preparing the tank for new/first stocking

You will need approx. 2 weeks preparation time to run in your filters with the help of a bacteria starter culture and some feed, and to achieve a suitable water chemistry for introducing your new fish.

Our discus fish are very easy to keep. The only maintenance you will need to provide for your discus fish are the following three tasks:

I. Feeding

2 – 3 x feeds daily of our thawed "Good Heart" Discus Frozen Feed.
(See dosage instructions overleaf)

II. Testing water chemistry

1 x per week – test pH value,
1 x per month – test phosphate value,
1 x per month – test nitrite value.

III. Water changes

1 x per week – exchange 20-30 % of the water and remove algae, clean glass panes (easy to do with a coarse sponge) and suction off debris from the base of tank (using a hose).

Our water values:

Total hardness (TH) 15
Carbonate hardness (CH) 8
PH value 7, conductivity 800 µS
Water temperature 28-30° C (82,5 - 86°F)



Keeping an aquarium can be as simple as that!