



Important information on keeping and caring for our STENDKER discus fish:

1. The difference between Asian discus offspring and our GERMAN STENDKER discus fish:

STENDKER discus fish have been raised in German tap water since 1965 (GH 15, KH 8, pH 7-7.5, 800 µs). We work with large internal filters and only a few water changes, approx. 30 percent per week. Due to this keeping method, our animals are used to a high germ pressure and are therefore very resistant to the usual aquarium diseases.

In contrast, almost all Asian breeding farms keep discus without an internal filter. With a very heavy water change of at least 90 percent water change per day. This method means that the animals are permanently raised in water that is low in germs. As a result, the immune system of the Asian animals is very susceptible and they are only conditionally suitable for keeping with a filter and few water changes (life expectancy decreases considerably, use of medication is much higher).

In Europe and also in America, aquarium keeping with a filter is actually practised everywhere, so that our STENDKER discus fish have a very big advantage over the Asian offspring in terms of life expectancy, strong immune system, low water change costs, etc.

2. cichlid behaviour:

The discus fish belongs to the cichlids and is therefore always somewhat aggressive towards its fellow inhabitants. We have made the experience that both dealers and private individuals should keep discus groups consisting of at least 10 animals. With smaller groups it happens again and again that the strongest animal is aggressive towards all the others and pushes the weakest animal away from the food. This weakest animal becomes ill due to the stress and the lack of food and eventually dies. After that, another animal is exposed to the stress and the suffering starts all over again.

With a group size of 10 animals or more, experience shows that there is not only one strong animal, but several, so that even the supposedly strong ones get a push back from time to time and thus the whole group becomes much more peaceful. The only exception is keeping discus fish in pairs, but for this the animals should be at least 14 cm tall.

3. stocking density:

We recommend a stocking density of 2 cm fish per litre of aquarium water for animals up to 10 cm in size. I.e. an 8 cm fish should have at least 4 litres of water, a 10 cm fish should have at least 5 litres of water. For larger fish over 10 cm we recommend 1 cm fish per litre of water, i.e. a 12 cm fish should have at least 12 litres of water, a 14 cm fish should have at least 14 litres of water. This rather high stocking density has many advantages:

- The food envy among each other becomes very great, so that the discus fish, which is actually a cautious and hesitant eater, becomes a voracious eater, taking in enough food to grow well and stay healthy.

- The disadvantage of this high stocking density is the high oxygen consumption in the aquarium, so it is essential to ensure effective oxygen scavenging, e.g. by using an aerator, oxidiser or diffuser.

For 10 adult animals we recommend an aquarium size of at least 300 litres. For discus fish kept together with by-fish and plants, we recommend a 450 litre aquarium for 12 to 15 discus fish.



4. use of our discus fish after transport:

Our animals have a long transport route to the USA. Therefore, it is important to first determine the temperature difference between the transport water and the aquarium water. If this is higher than 4 degrees Celsius, the temperature should be slowly adjusted with the transport bag closed (add 1-2 litres of aquarium water per hour to the transport box and keep the transport bags closed so that the oxygen does not escape. Once the temperature of the newly arrived animals has been raised to less than 4 degrees from the aquarium water, first open the bags, carry out a short water adjustment (fill the aquarium water into the bag) and put the animals into the aquarium within 15 minutes of opening the bag and let them swim there. This will take a lot of the stress out of transporting the fish. Animals that have cooled down slowly over a period of 30 hours should not be brought back to their original temperature within minutes, as this can overload the animals' circulation.

5. feeding and food:

ideally our animals are fed 3 x daily with our Good Heart or 2 x daily with our Good Heart and 1 x daily with our ORIGINAL STENDKER granules, just like in our breeding farm. We hope that in the future it will be possible to make our popular and very high quality feed mixes available in America. Please do not feed our animals Tubifex, mussels or red mosquito larvae, as this food often introduces diseases into the aquarium.

Important information on keeping and caring for our STENDKER discus fish can also be found on our homepage:

<https://diskuszucht-stendker.de/en/Diskus-Handbuch/>

We look forward to a good cooperation.

Your STENDKER team