



AXOLOTL

# CARE GUIDE

THE NEW BEGINNING WAY

# Axolotl Care Guide

Axolotls, often referred to as the "Mexican walking fish," are fascinating creatures that make unique and engaging pets. Despite their appearance, axolotls are amphibians, not fish. They are known for their ability to regenerate lost body parts, which adds to their allure as exotic pets. This care guide will help you provide the best environment and care for your axolotl.

## Setting Up the Aquarium

### Tank Size and Environment

- **Tank Size:** A minimum of a 20-gallon tank is recommended for one axolotl to ensure they have ample space to move around. If you plan to keep more than one, increase the tank size accordingly.
- **Substrate:** Use fine sand or a bare-bottom tank. Avoid gravel, as axolotls can accidentally ingest it, leading to serious health issues.
- **Water Temperature:** Maintain the water temperature between 60°F and 68°F (16°C and 20°C). Axolotls are cold-water creatures, and higher temperatures can cause stress.
- **Water Quality:** Use a good filtration system to maintain water quality, but ensure the water flow is gentle, as axolotls prefer calm waters. Regular water changes (20-30% weekly) are crucial.
- **Lighting:** Low lighting is best, as axolotls do not require strong lighting and can become stressed with excessive brightness.

### Decor and Enrichment

- **Hiding Spots:** Provide plenty of hiding spots using caves, plants, and ornaments. Axolotls appreciate having places to retreat to.
- **Plants:** Live or artificial plants can be used, but make sure they are safe and won't harm the axolotl. They can also help maintain water quality.

## Feeding Your Axolotl

- **Diet:** Axolotls are carnivorous and thrive on a diet of earthworms, bloodworms, and specialized axolotl pellets. Occasionally, you can offer treats like shrimp or small fish.
- **Feeding Schedule:** Juveniles should be fed daily, while adults can be fed every other day. Remove any uneaten food to prevent water contamination.

## Health and Wellness

- **Signs of Health:** A healthy axolotl will be active and have a good appetite. Their gills should be feathery and pink, and their skin should be smooth.
- **Common Health Issues:** Watch for signs of stress or illness, such as lethargy, lack of appetite, or unusual spots on the skin. Always consult a veterinarian familiar with amphibians if you notice any concerns.

# Handling and Interaction

- **Minimal Handling:** Axolotls are delicate and do not enjoy being handled. Use a net or container if you need to move them. Always ensure your hands are clean and wet if you must touch them.
- **Observation:** The best way to interact with your axolotl is by observing their fascinating behaviors and providing a stimulating environment.

# Breeding Axolotls

- **Breeding Age:** Axolotls can breed as early as 12 months old. Ensure you have the proper setup and are prepared to care for the offspring if you choose to breed them.
- **Egg Care:** Female axolotls lay eggs on plants or decorations. If breeding, be prepared to separate the eggs into a different tank to ensure safety and proper growth.

By following these guidelines, you can create a thriving environment for your axolotl, ensuring they live a healthy and stress-free life. These captivating creatures are sure to bring joy and curiosity to your home.

