

# Family Pet & Aquarium

Open 7 Days

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## Axolotl information care sheet

### Cycling the tank

Axolotls must go into a cycled tank with an established beneficial bacteria colony build up. The best way to cycle the tank is by adding gold fish. This cycle generally takes 8 weeks to complete, at this point we suggest bringing in a sample of the aquarium water for testing to make sure it is suitable for the axolotl to go in to. Without a properly cycled and established tank your axolotl will become extremely unwell and possibly die. Unlike most aquatic animals, axolotls have skin rather than scales, for this reason it is a necessity to have a cycled and established tank as any toxins that appear in the tank will burn their skin allowing the axolotl to contract fungus and disease.

### pH requirements

Axolotls need a high pH (alkaline) level, if the pH gets low (acidic) it can cause burns and the axolotl will stop eating which can result in death if not resolved. The best ways to ensure the pH is always high is by adding some shell grit, coral sand, texas holly rock or by using pH up powder.

### Feeding your Axolotl

Axolotls don't have the best eye sight, so it's important to feed their food right above their head. You could use a food that can be smelt easily or hand feed your axolotl to ensure he is eating. Axolotls are carnivores and can be fed live feeder fish, frozen blood worms, crickets, high protein pellets and worms from the garden (not compost worms). It is very important that any uneaten food is removed from the tank to prevent ammonia spikes.

### Tank size and maintenance

Axolotls must be kept in a tank of a minimum of 70 liters and every week to 10 days a water change must be made to ensure optimum water quality is maintained. When adding water to your axolotl tank you must ensure water ager/conditioner has been added to the water before putting the clean water in the tank. If the water ager/conditioner is forgotten the chlorine in our tap water will kill all the beneficial bacteria which is vital for the axolotls overall health and survival and the tank will need to start a new cycle using gold fish.

