

PASSION *for* PETS

Southern Knight Seahorse Information Care Sheet



Check list

- A tank or bowl, (25 litres or more is best)
- A good quality air pump
- Silicon air tubing and valves
- An under gravel filter and air stone
- An hydrometer and thermometer
- Artificial sea salt
- Chlorine neutraliser
- Shell grit
- Gravel
- Plastic plants
- A check valve
- An aquarium light
- A good quality aquarium globe designed for salt water tanks

SETTING UP YOUR HOUSING

As sea horses can be sensitive animals it is important that the tank you are going to keep them in has been set up and running for a minimum of seven days prior to introducing your first sea horse.

STEPS TO SETTING UP YOUR TANK

1. Choose a location for your sea horse tank. Position your tank out of direct sunlight and away from excessive heat, (such as ducted heating vents.) Sea horses can be sensitive to warm temperatures, (24 C+)
2. Thoroughly rinse your tank with fresh water free of any dust or particles.
3. Set up your undergravel filter. The size and type of undergravel filter you will need will vary depending on the size and shape tank you have. Your Passion for Pets staff member will help you select the most appropriate filter.
4. Using your silicon airtubing and valves set up and connect your air pump to the undergravel filter. Leave a spare connection for your airstone that you will add later. Remember to install your check valve as per the instructions.
5. **THOROUGHLY** wash your gravel and shellgrit prior to putting it in the tank. A mix of 50% gravel and 50% shellgrit is ideal.
6. Cover the undergravel filter with your gravel/shellgrit mix. Ensure all of the filter plate is covered with at least 3 to 5cm of gravel/shellgrit.
7. Fill your tank with fresh cold tap water counting how many litres the tank holds. DO NOT fill your tank all the way to the top for the time being. Leave around 3cm clearance from the water level to the top of the tank.
8. Position your plastic plants as well as any other ornaments you want to have in the tank. Ask your Passion for Pets staff member if the ornaments you wish to use are safe to use in your tank.
9. Position and connect the airstone.
10. Now that you know how many litres your tank holds, add the appropriate amount of artificial sea salt and chlorine neutraliser. Thoroughly dissolve both the chemicals in an amount of water that will complete filling the tank, and then pour the mix evenly in your tank.
11. Turn on your air pump and ensure that both the airstone and filter are pumping air.
12. Set up and install your aquarium light.
13. Let the tank run for a day or so then check the salinity, pH and water temperature using the hydrometer / thermometer. Make and necessary adjustments.
14. Now all you have to do is leave your tank for a minimum of seven days before introducing your first sea horse.

JUST PRIOR TO PURCHASING YOUR SEA HORSE

Just before you go to purchase your sea horse, do one final check on the pH, salinity and water temperature. Follow the guide below for the ideal pH and salinity range.

PURCHASING YOUR SEA HORSE

Your Passion for Pets staff member will help you with your selection of a sea horse. You can keep 2 – 4 sea horses per 25 litres of seawater, however it is best to introduce them gradually over a period of 3 – 4 weeks as the tank needs to establish it's own biological filtration.

SEXING YOUR SEA HORSE

Telling the sex of sea horses is easy! The male sea horse has the potbelly, the females do not. Both sexes may also have a headdress of spikes that are on the head and back of the sea horse.

ARRIVING HOME

Never place your sea horse straight into the tank, as there may be a difference in the water temperature between the bag and the tank.

Float the unopened bag for 5 to 10 minutes in the tank prior to releasing your new sea horse.

Once you have floated the bag for 5 to 10 minutes, open the top of the bag and gently release your sea horse into the tank.

FEEDING YOUR SEA HORSE

Seahorses will eat frozen brine shrimp, frozen krill, live brine shrimp and can be trained, (although not easily) to eat flake food. Your sea horse should be fed several times a day and any uneaten food must be removed immediately once feeding has finished.

TANK MAINTENCE

To keep your sea horse in optimum condition it is important that you keep the environment they live in as healthy as possible. You should change between 25% and 50% of the tank water once every two weeks. pH and salinity should be monitored weekly. Follow the guide below for the ideal pH and salinity range.

TEMPREATURE

Temperature is very important to Southern Night sea horses as they do not like warm temperatures. Their ideal range is between 15 – 21 c. Once temperatures reach 24c you will need to stabilise the tank water temperature using air conditioning or party ice.

LIFESPAN

Sea horses will live up to 9 years in captivity and grow to around 20cm as an adult.

WATER QUALITY GUIDE

pH	8.2 – 8.4
Salinity	1.010 – 1.020 specific gravity
Temperature	15 – 21 degrees C.

CONTACT US

Our friendly staff is always available to answer your questions so please don't hesitate to contact us for further information.